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**The  
Daily  
Telegraph**

**STORY OF THE WAR**

★ ★ ★ ★

**The  
Daily  
Telegraph**

**STORY OF THE WAR**

*Edited by* **DAVID MARLEY**

**The *First* Volume**

September 3rd, 1939—September 2nd, 1941

**The *Second* Volume**

September 3rd, 1941—December 31st, 1942

**The *Third* Volume**

January—December, 1943

**The *Fourth* Volume**

January—December, 1944

"The diary form is maintained, which gives it actuality and dramatic tension, and the entries, chosen from the widest possible field, illuminate every phase the war went through, with glances here and there at domestic happenings.

"The book is well illustrated and provided with maps as well as a good index. In short, it is everything that a book of this order should be."

*The Times Literary Supplement.*



THE WATCH ON THE RHINE BEGINS IN HOLLAND  
(Photo : B.N.P.)



**The  
Daily  
Telegraph**  
**STORY OF THE WAR**  
January–December 1944

*Edited by*  
**DAVID MARLEY**

★ ★ ★ ★

**HODDER & STOUGHTON  
LIMITED                      LONDON**

THE FOURTH VOLUME OF  
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH STORY OF THE WAR

*First printed*

1945

THIS BOOK IS PRODUCED IN COM-  
PLETE CONFORMITY WITH THE  
AUTHORISED ECONOMY STANDARDS

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## FOREWORD

IT is the business of the historian to set events in their true proportion and perspective, for he can survey the whole landscape at his leisure when the smoke-screens of battle no longer obscure it. We can make no such survey with confidence, and this fourth volume of the *Daily Telegraph* Story of the War, like the earlier volumes, does not attempt it. Here is the war as we ourselves have seen and suffered it day by day ; here too are some of those heroisms and self-sacrifices which light our way through this black-out of civilisation, and the human details, the strange stories, for which the future historian of the Second World War will have no room to spare.

This is a year of liberations—Rome, Paris, Brussels, Luxemburg, Belgrade, Athens, Tirana—and of victories which promise liberation for Warsaw, Prague, Vienna, Amsterdam, Oslo and Copenhagen, Rangoon, Singapore, Batavia and Manila, Saigon and Peiping. All the great events of 1944 are duly chronicled and indexed. The maps provide once again a topical atlas of this global war. The photographs are a remarkable selection from the pages of a great national newspaper.

But here also are survivors' stories of battle, bombing and shipwreck, descriptions of the "human torpedo," the midget submarine, the rocket-bomb and the jet-propelled plane, the defeat of the flying bombs, the catacomb partisans of Odessa, and the Fourteenth Army's victories in Burma. The reader goes ashore with commandos in Crete to kidnap a German general ; realises—for the first time perhaps—the fantastic heroism of pilots flying through the monsoons over Japanese-infested jungles ; rejoices with Paris, Brussels and Athens ; and watches the terrible bombing of Cassino, the sinking of the *Tirpitz*, and the greatest sea-borne invasion in history. . . .

D. M.

*December 31st, 1944.*

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# JO'S FOURTH BOOK

## JANUARY 1944

*Saturday, January 1st.*

The Belgian Prime Minister, M. Pierlot, broadcasting to Belgium, promised his country liberation during 1944.

The Russians are now within 25 miles of the Polish frontier.

Air-raid casualties in the United Kingdom during December were 10 killed, 41 injured.

During 1943 the Allies destroyed over 200 U-boats. The official total for the war of 1914-18 was 203.

Between May 1st, 1940, and December 31st, 1943, Bomber Command dropped 246,425 tons of bombs on the enemy, 203,300 tons being on Germany itself. The yearly tonnage was : 1940, 12,795 ; 1941, 31,185 ; 1942, 45,285 ; 1943, 157,160.

*Sunday, January 2nd.*

Bomber Command's first raid of 1944 was made early to-day, when four-engined Lancasters dropped over 1,000 tons of bombs on Berlin. Since the Battle of Berlin began in earnest on November 18th, over 13,000 tons of bombs have been dropped on the city.

This afternoon Parisians watched four Typhoon fighters of the R.A.F. chase German aircraft round the Eiffel Tower and shoot down one of them.

*Monday, January 3rd.*

This morning the R.A.F. dropped another thousand tons of bombs on Berlin. Hitler's Chancellery received a direct hit.

General Sir Bernard Montgomery, K.C.B., D.S.O., has arrived in England to take up his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the British group of invasion armies. Before leaving Italy he said, "There can be no possible doubt that the end of this war is in sight. In bringing about this wonderful fact the Eighth Army has played a very notable part."



*Tuesday, January 4th.*

Over 1,250 Allied bombers and fighters were employed to-day in tremendous daylight attacks on Germany and German-occupied countries.

The Russians have captured Byelaya Tserkov, an important railway junction 40 miles south-west of Kiev.

German school children have been mobilised for war purposes.

*Thursday, January 6th.*

On Tuesday night the Fifth Army in Italy launched an attack east of Cassino. Yesterday Lt.-General Sir Oliver Leese was appointed to command the Eighth Army.

Last night Lancasters and Halifaxes dropped over 1,000 tons of bombs on Stettin and Mosquitoes raided Berlin.

The Russians have crossed the 1939 Polish frontier at Rokitno, and the Polish Government in London announced last night that the "underground" resistance movement in Poland has been instructed to co-operate with the Red Army commanders only if Polish-Soviet diplomatic relations are resumed. (They were broken off by the Russian government on April 26th, 1943. See Volume 3 of this "Story of the War.")

The great American air-transport line over the spurs of the Himalayas, probably the worst flying route in the world, is now carrying more military supplies into China than the Burma Road ever carried.

#### JET PROPULSION

A remarkable step forward in aero-engine design was announced to-night in a joint statement by the R.A.F. and United States Army Air Force. Jet propulsion has come to stay. As a result, without a propellor, and without the conventional internal combustion engine, a new type of fighter (the Gloster) has already been born. It bids fair to outstrip all others in performance, notably in speed and climb, though of course details are secret. Great Britain led the world with the design, but its development over several years has been a united Anglo-American effort. Thirty-six-year-old Group Captain Frank Whittle is the inventor. Another R.A.F. man, the late Flt.-Lieut. P. E. G. Sayer, made the first successful flight in the jet-propelled plane in May, 1941.

*Saturday, January 8th.*

Marshal Stalin, in an Order of the Day, announced the capture of Kirovgrad. German defences in the Dnieper bend are collapsing and their losses in men and material are enormous.

In Italy, American troops have cleared the Germans from San Vittore.

General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson has been appointed Supreme Allied Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean.

*Tuesday, January 11th.*

More than 700 U.S.A.F. heavy bombers, with fighter escort, attacked German aircraft factories to-day ; 59 bombers and 5 fighters were lost ; 152 German fighters were shot down.

In Burma, British troops yesterday captured Maungdaw.

Count Ciano, Mussolini's son-in-law and former Foreign Minister, Marshal de Bono, the first Commander-in-Chief in the Abyssinian War, and three other Fascist leaders, were shot near Verona this morning, for having helped to overthrow Mussolini.

#### HIS LAST SIGNAL

Alone and dying of wounds on the bridge of his abandoned ship, a British captain sounded the victory signal. The captain was Arthur William Folster, aged thirty-nine, of North Shields, Northumberland. His end was described to-day at Pietermaritzburg, Natal, by Ian Clark, an apprentice officer. The ship was attacked by two U-boats and when the captain went to the navigating bridge he was struck by shell splinters which severed his right arm and left leg and injured him in the stomach. The first officer was killed.

Because of the position in which he was lying, the captain could not see his terrible injuries, but asked what they were. When told, he said he was beyond medical aid and, therefore, would not leave his ship. He was given morphia, brandy and water. Two hours later he gave Clark a message to deliver to his mother in Durban and then ordered him to leave the ship. When Clark entered the lifeboat he was told that everybody had abandoned ship except the captain.

Half an hour later the ship's siren sounded the victory signal. Clark said that Captain Folster was lying on the bridge and to have sounded the siren he would have had to raise himself and stand on one leg, stretch out his arm and grasp the lanyard.

The ship went down in a sheet of flame.

*Wednesday, January 12th.*

The Russians announced the capture of Sarny. The remnants of five German divisions (originally about 70,000 men) have been wiped out in the Dnieper Bend, after refusing to surrender.

Allied bombers attacked the Piræus, the harbour of Athens.

*Saturday, January 15th.*

Last night Moscow announced the capture of Mozyr and Kalinkovichi, in White Russia ; and the R.A.F. dropped 2,000 tons of bombs on Brunswick in twenty-three minutes.

The Polish Government, after discussing a Russian proposal that the "Curzon line" should be the new Polish frontier, has asked Britain and U.S.A. to mediate.

In Italy the Fifth Army is closing in on Cassino.

Bombs have been found in cargoes of oranges sent from Spain to Britain.

Seven persons are known to have been killed and 31 injured, 15 seriously, when a bomb fell on a big cinema in a London district last night. A second bomb fell on a departmental store. The bombs are believed to have been dropped by a low-flying lone raider.

*Sunday, January 16th.*

Russian shock troops, after three days' fierce fighting, have broken through the German defences between Leningrad and Novo Sokolniki.

The American General, Dwight Eisenhower, who commanded in North Africa, took up his duties to-day as Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Expeditionary Force in Britain.

#### YUGOSLAV REFUGEES

Among a number of Yugoslav refugees, women and children, who have newly arrived "somewhere in the Levant,"

there is hardly one who could not recount heroic or poignant personal episodes of the occupation. For instance, there is Olga, a buxom peasant girl of twenty, who fought for two years with the guerrillas, specialising in grenade throwing. She claims to have killed 150 Germans. Members of her own family were killed to the last person. Another girl, named Myra, set fire to an ammunition train. In the confusion that followed, she captured some of the precious freight for the use of the guerrillas. There is one lad here named Alec, aged eighteen. He fought for fifteen months, and was then shot in both arms. He escaped after a wild adventure, going for seven full days without food of any sort.

Not all the women fighters are of an Amazonian type like Olga. Most of them are ordinary peasants. When their menfolk were killed they joined the guerrillas in desperation, death seeming to be certain one way or another.

*Tuesday, January 18th.*

Mr. Churchill returned to London to-day and was enthusiastically welcomed. He has now quite recovered. While convalescing at Marrakesh, French Morocco, he had important discussions with General de Gaulle.

The Russians have launched a new offensive near Leningrad, and made important advances near Novgorod.

Moscow yesterday accused the Polish Government of having in effect rejected the "Curzon line" as a boundary, and of not wishing to establish good relations with Russia.

In Italy bad weather continues to hamper the Allies, but the Fighting French have captured San Elia, and British troops of the Fifth Army have crossed the Garigliano on a wide front.

Yesterday the first six hundred young men of all classes (the "Bevin boys"), selected by Mr. Bevin's ballot scheme, began their training for work in the coal-mines.

#### A DIVER BEATS THE TIDE

When a depth-charge, set to explode at a certain level, fell from an aircraft in the fairway of a seaplane base, there was grave danger that as the tide rose the charge would explode, causing considerable damage.

Bernard Franklin, officially a naval "wireman," but also a qualified diver, at once went down to find it.

It was a 45-minute race to beat the tide. At any minute he might have been blown up, yet he carried on with complete disregard for his own safety. For his bravery, Franklin has been awarded the British Empire Medal (Military).

*Thursday, January 20th.*

Novgorod fell to the Russians.

The Fifth Army took Minturno. The offensive beyond the Garigliano continues.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, R.A.F., took up his duties as Deputy Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force.

*Friday, January 21st.*

Over 2,300 tons of bombs were dropped on Berlin by the R.A.F. last night ; 30 huge fires were started.

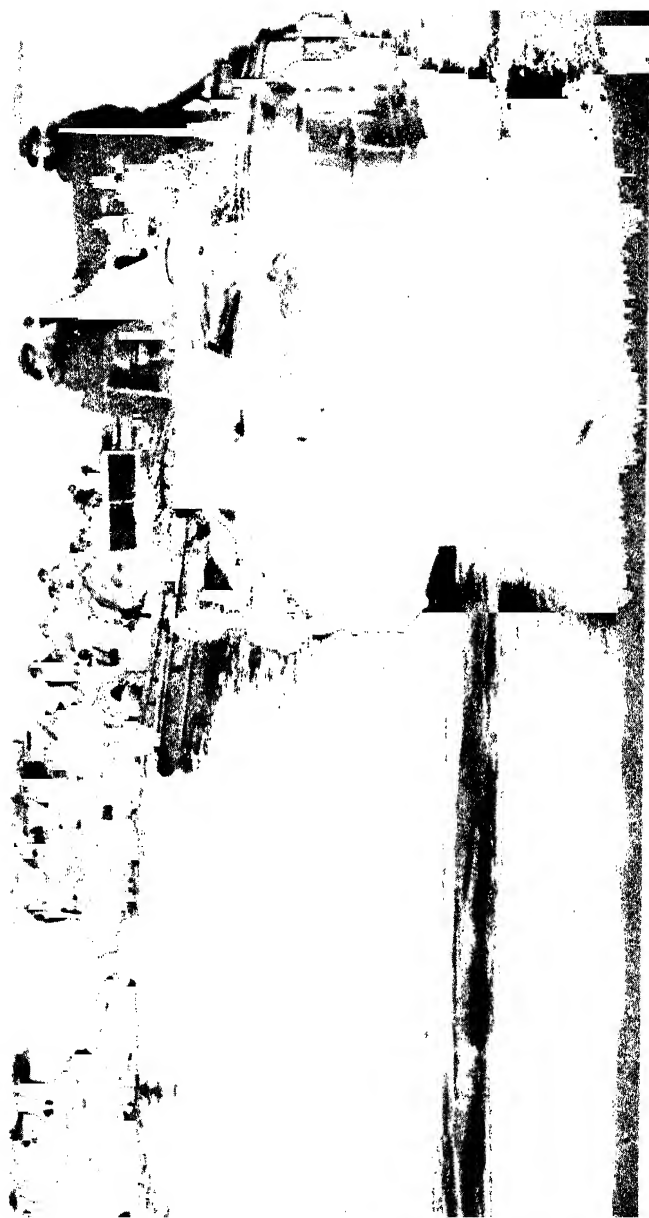
The air offensive against the Germans from Britain and from Italy and the Mediterranean goes on almost continuously day and night.

#### HOW A LANCASTER CAME HOME

Thirteen combats with relays of enemy fighters were successfully fought by a damaged Lancaster which flew from the enemy coast to Brunswick on three engines and returned on two.

"We had just reached a good height over the coast on the way out," said Pilot Officer F. W. Gallagher, of Nuneaton, captain of the Lancaster "N. for Nan," "when the port outer engine caught fire and the rear turret hydraulic system failed. As the rear gunner, Flt.-Sgt. M. Sherman, of Toronto, reported that his guns were working, I decided to go on. Everything went well on the three engines until ten minutes before we reached the target, when the rear gunner said : 'Me. 109 hanging off, waiting for attack.' It fired at us five times, and each time we replied. The Lancaster was spattered with bullets.

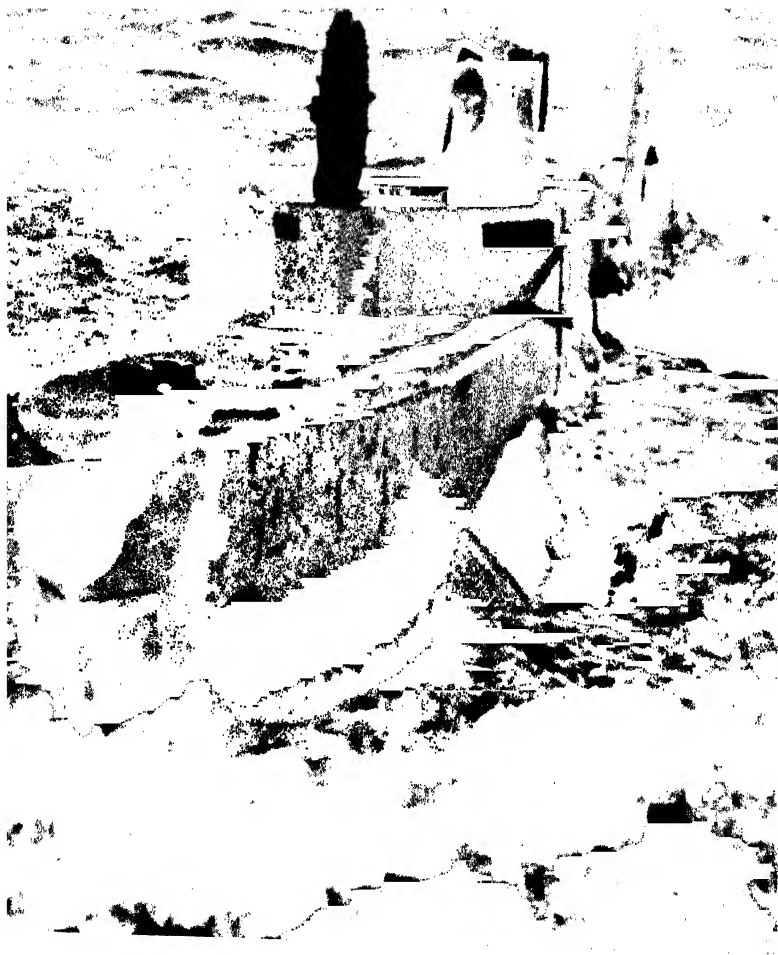
"I kept on our course until the bomb aimer, Sergeant R. P. Scott, of North Shields, reported 'Bombs gone.' Then, before the bomb doors closed, another fighter came in with his guns blazing. Our port inner engine was hit and several of us were cut by splinters from flying glass. Our tail and



"DUCKS" GO ASHORE NEAR NETTUNO

Allied troops of the Fifth Army going ashore in "ducks" near Nettuno during their perfectly planned landing.

*(Crown Copyright Reserved)*



#### MIDGET SUBMARINE

One of the British submarines of X class which carried out the successful attack on the German battle ship *Tirpitz*. Midget submarines are between 30 feet and 35 feet in length. They carry a crew of four.

(Crown Copyright Reserved)

elevator trimmings had been shot away on the port side, and I had to brace my feet against the instrument panel and get the engineer's help to pull the aircraft out of its dive.

"Leaving the target we were attacked eight times in twenty-five minutes. It was a running chase. At least three or four fighters came in, in turn.

"The rear gunner saw one fighter dive away after tracer had pierced its cockpit, and he thought it was probably destroyed. Two bullets had hit the armour plating behind my head, and several had gone through the rear and mid-upper turrets. We all had narrow escapes. But it was not until things had quietened down that the rear gunner reported 'rear turret out of order.' Only one gun fired.

"A little later a burst of flak hit our starboard wing. As the aircraft was already so difficult to control I ordered the jettisoning of all loose equipment.

"We were maintaining a height of thirteen thousand feet when I suddenly saw a rocket strike our already damaged starboard wing and then continue on a parallel course to ours. It seemed to be about two feet long and two-and-a-half inches thick, with a fin on its back.

"Then I found the elevators had jammed, and that we were circling over enemy territory. The engineer and I both swung on the 'stick' and forced it over that extra quarter-of-an-inch needed to straighten our course.

"Forty miles off the English coast eight fighter flares were dropped near me. Only by getting the whole crew to stand on one side of the aircraft did I manage to alter course ninety degrees. I then saw the fighter swooping and diving away among the flares looking for us.

"Our under-carriage had also been damaged, and I asked each member of the crew in turn if he would prefer to bale out. Each replied in more or less the same words: 'You've brought me this far, and if anything happens we're all in it together.'

"As we landed the under-carriage collapsed. There is a song about 'Come home on a wing and a prayer.' On our way home we altered it slightly to 'more on a prayer than a wing.'"

*Saturday, January 22nd.*

Last night the R.A.F. dropped over 2,000 tons of bombs on Magdeburg, and the Luftwaffe dropped about 90 tons on



London and south-east England—their fifth and heaviest raid this year. Of about ninety German planes 16 were brought down.

In a recent four-day battle in the Atlantic, packs of U-boats and long-range bombers which attacked a convoy were decisively defeated, although they used radio-controlled glider bombs on a large scale for the first time in the Atlantic. Only two ships in the convoy were damaged ; two U-boats were sunk—possibly five others damaged, and several bombers shot down.

*Monday, January 24th.*

A new landing south of Rome. Anzio and Nettuno have been occupied, and German reports say that our troops have reached the Appian Way—the high-road to Rome—in a thrust which threatens the supply-lines of the German forces on the Garigliano front. Hitler has ordered them to hold the “Gustav line” at all costs.

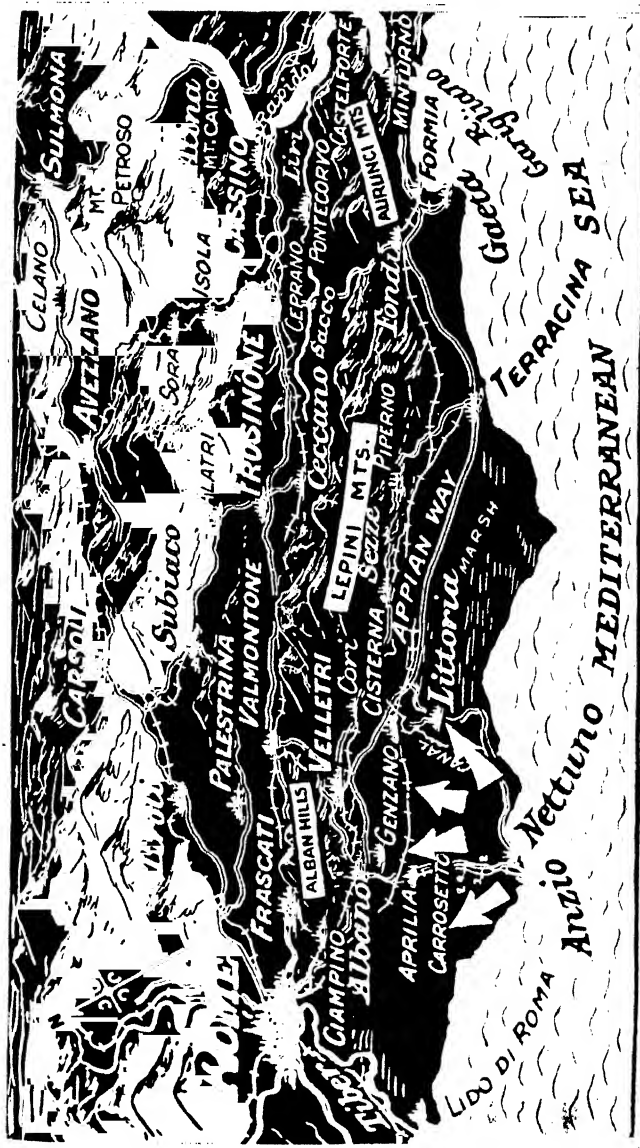
The British hospital ship “St. David,” though brilliantly lit, was sunk by German bombers off Anzio.

#### THE LANDING AT ANZIO

British and American assault forces went ashore at 2 a.m. to-day near Anzio and Nettuno, south of Rome, writes Christopher Buckley, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent with the Fifth Army. The landing was heralded by intense air attacks on German communications around Rome and on German H.Q. at Frascati. Conditions were perfect. Practically the only obstacle encountered during the disembarkation was the mine-fields along the shore. Only one coastal battery appears to have opened fire and that was speedily silenced.

The Nettuno operation worked so smoothly that, in the words of a British pilot who flew over the beaches during the disembarkation, “It looked just like an exercise at home. You could not believe it was an operation of war. The landing craft were moving in and unloading with steady and uninterrupted rhythm. There did not appear to be any signs of opposition.”

Within little more than three hours we were finally established ashore on a broad front, and were pushing inland. A few isolated German prisoners have been taken, but contact



ROME, THE ANZIO BEACHHEAD AND CASSINO

Daily Telegraph

has not yet been established with any considerable enemy body.

That a seaborne landing of this nature was the only effective way of breaking the military deadlock on the Italian front has long been clear. The question was whether we had the means at our disposal, more particularly the landing craft. Our resources have been built up during the winter.

Meanwhile Kesselring's forces all along the front opposite the Fifth Army were pinned down by attacks which, opening in the Cassino neighbourhood, spread gradually all the way from Venafro to the sea. The Fifth Army also made a serious breach in the German defence line by forcing the Garigliano.

Thus positive strategic success has been achieved.

*Thursday, January 27th.*

The Germans are now making a determined effort to contain the Anglo-American forces in the Anzio beachhead.

Russian successes continue on the Leningrad and Pripet fronts.

Yesterday Liberia declared war on Germany and Japan, and Argentina broke off diplomatic relations with Germany and Japan.

In a great day and night offensive over the first 25 days of this year, 20,000 tons of bombs were dropped on Europe from Allied aircraft.

Bomber Command and the United States Eighth Air Force have been forcing the Germans more and more on to the defensive. One reason why we enjoy such overwhelming air superiority over the Mediterranean is that many of the best German fighters are still retained to fight over Western Europe.

*Friday, January 28th.*

The largest force of Lancasters yet sent against Berlin last night dropped nearly 1,500 tons of high explosive and incendiaries on the city in twenty minutes. There was an enormous explosion. Fires were visible two hundred miles away.

The official account of how the Japanese tortured, starved to death, and sometimes wantonly murdered American and Filipino soldiers, taken prisoner on Bataan and Corregidor,

was issued jointly to-day by the United States Army and Navy.

*Saturday, January 29th.*

Early this morning the R.A.F. dropped over 1,500 tons of bombs on Berlin, and Frankfurt was blasted to-day by over 800 American heavy bombers, the strongest force yet sent out from Britain by the U.S.A.F. They shot down 102 German planes.

Tanks and heavy artillery have been landed in the Anzio beach-head. The Fifth Army is now within 17 miles of Rome.

The Russians have cleared the enemy from the main Leningrad-Moscow railway.

*Monday, January 31st.*

Yesterday Hitler celebrated the eleventh anniversary of his seizure of power by broadcasting to the German people a warning that great hardships lie ahead ; and last night the R.A.F. raided Berlin once more. It is now the most heavily bombed city in the world.

Yesterday American bombers attacked aircraft works at Brunswick, and also attacked Wake Island, in the Pacific.

The Fifth Army has broken through the Gustav Line north of Cassino, and the Germans report a powerful Allied offensive from the Anzio beachhead.

Throughout January a tremendous Allied air offensive against the Germans and Japanese has been maintained almost continuously, including targets of every kind all over occupied Europe. Rabaul, New Britain, was raided 13 times and 400 Japanese planes were destroyed.

Air-raid casualties in the United Kingdom during January were 107 killed, 270 injured.

## FEBRUARY 1944

*Tuesday, February 1st.*

The Americans have begun their biggest offensive yet in the Pacific ; they have landed on the Marshall Islands, half-way between Pearl Harbour and Tokio, a vital link in the fortified line guarding Japan itself.

The Supreme Soviet approved the proposal that every

Soviet Republic of the U.S.S.R. should have a separate army and diplomatic service.

The equivalent of a road 9,000 miles long and 30 feet wide has been built in Great Britain in the paved runways, perimeter tracks, and hard standings on the large number of airfields now available here. This corresponds to 160,000,000 square yards of concreted surface. Thousands of fields and woods, hedges and ditches have been torn up and rolled out by huge bulldozers, giant excavators scooping out 12 to 15 cubic yards of soil, and then covered over by the concrete pavers and tarmac mixers.

*Wednesday, February 2nd.*

Admiral Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief in the Pacific, announced to-night the capture of Roi Island, in the Marshalls. Landings have been made on three other islands. American losses are moderate.

In Italy, British, French and American troops have broken through the German lines near Cassino and between Campoleone and Cisterna.

The Russians have crossed the Estonian frontier.

*Thursday, February 3rd.*

An Order of the Day by Marshal Stalin announced that nine German infantry divisions and one tank division have been encircled in the Dnieper Bend—from 100,000 to 120,000 men. This is the greatest thing of its kind since the remnants of the Sixth Army of 330,000 men surrendered at Stalingrad a year ago.

Wilhelmshaven was raided to-day by over a thousand American heavy bombers and long-range fighters.

Radio stations mounted on vehicles ranging from a five-ton truck to a light van will form part of the invasion equipment taken into Europe by the R.A.F. They are among the outstanding technical developments of the war, and fulfil many of the functions of the huge permanent apparatus on a main air base.

*Saturday, February 5th.*

Fierce attacks by picked German troops on the Anzio beachhead have all been repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy.

Frankfurt was heavily bombed by American Flying Fortresses yesterday, and airfields in France to-day. Toulon was bombed from Italy yesterday, and Bangkok from China.

The Russians captured Rovno and Lutzk.

It was announced in Washington yesterday that early in January the U.S. Navy sank in the South Atlantic three German blockade-runners loaded with rubber, tin, fats and valuable ores from Japanese-held ports. Hundreds of tons of rubber were salvaged.

*Tuesday, February 8th.*

Nikopol, of vital importance to the Germans for its manganese mines, has been captured by the Russians, and the last German bridgehead on the east bank of the Dnieper has been liquidated. The Germans lost over 15,000 killed and 2,000 prisoners.

Attacks by aircraft and flame-throwers on the Anzio beach-head have been repulsed, but the area is under heavy shell-fire and there is widespread anxiety about the position.

The main island in the Marshalls, Kwajalein Atoll, has now been occupied, with many smaller islands. The Japanese killed number 8,122 ; the Americans, 286.

The Huon Peninsula in New Guinea has been cleared of Japanese.

R.A.F. planes to-night continued the onslaught on Europe which started at daybreak to-day. For over three hours, beginning shortly after dusk, Allied aircraft crossed the East Coast flying in an easterly direction.

#### HE CHOSE BATTLE BEFORE MORPHIA

A nineteen-year-old Royal Marine officer, Lieut. P. H. Haydon, of Penzance, who refused morphia to relieve the agony of his wounds so that he might keep his mind alert for battle, is among those to whom the award of honours was announced to-night.

Lieut. Haydon was in command of a troop of Royal Marine Commandos who had seized a defile. He was seriously wounded in the back by shrapnel. He continued calmly to direct the defence and inspired his men to counter-attack. He was again wounded. It was after he had refused the morphia that the enemy attacked twice more. Seizing the

rifle from a dead man "with great difficulty because of his wounds, he killed four Germans at close range."

Then he fainted three times. Recovering, he so controlled the use of his fire-power and set such an example that "despite the enemy's vast numerical superiority the attacks were beaten off." It was due to his gallantry and extreme devotion to duty, said the citation, announcing the award of the D.S.O. to him, that an important position was held on the Salerno-Naples road.

*Thursday, February 10th.*

Mr. Robert Patterson, U.S. Acting Secretary of War, announced that in the past week 140 Japanese planes had been destroyed, while the Allies had lost 10. The Allies, he declared, usually operate in the South-West Pacific on a one-in-ten ratio of losses. The terrific power of the Allied air attacks in this area had resulted in driving the Japanese naval forces from Rabaul, their main base in New Britain.

Mr. Patterson also said that American and British forces on the Anzio beach-head were seriously threatened by powerful German forces.

#### SUBMARINE EXPLOITS

In the Mediterranean H.M. Submarine *Rorqual* was attacking a convoy and had hit the leading ship with torpedoes when the second ship turned and rammed the submerged submarine. Both periscopes were broken. "We didn't feel it much and the submarine did not even heel over," said Lt.-Commander Lennox Napier, commanding officer of the *Rorqual*, to Commander Kenneth Edwards, *Daily Telegraph* Naval Correspondent. "There was just a bump and some of us thought that it was a depth charge. The *Rorqual* was, of course, completely blinded, but made her way safely back to harbour.

This was one of many incidents in the war service of the *Rorqual*, one of the Navy's big mine-laying submarines. Apart from laying mines close under the enemy defences, attacking and sinking enemy shipping by torpedo, and shelling enemy positions on shore, she did invaluable work in supplying Malta during the most critical months of the siege of that island. Between June, 1941, and November, 1942, the *Rorqual* did seven trips to Malta.

"When it was first decided to supply Malta by submarine the *Rorqual* was selected because of her great carrying capacity, and the whole of her mine-casing was packed with four-gallon tins of petrol. "This proved a very great danger," said Commander Napier. "The mine-casing is open to the sea. When we dived deep, the sea pressure burst the petrol tins. Not only did this produce a horribly obvious trail of oil, but the tins drained when we were on the surface during the night, and gave us additional buoyancy which made it very difficult for us to dive. Later special containers were provided.

"Unloading in Malta during the blitz was always a problem. We had to lie on the bottom of the harbour during the day and unload as best we could between the air raids at night."

The *Rorqual* was returning to England to refit, when she was recalled to run supplies into Leros, in the Dodecanese. On that trip she carried a complete battery of light anti-aircraft guns and a jeep lashed on her upper deck. Unloading at Leros was tricky in the extreme. It could be done only in periods of darkness, and it was nearing the full moon period. There were only one jetty and one crane. The crane was electric and the worse for bombing. It made tremendous sparks which were not conducive to secrecy or to the peace of mind of those engaged in unloading petrol. The *Rorqual* finished unloading just as the moon was rising, and then found that she was hard and fast aground and could not move under her own power. There was one Italian tug in the island, but this was found drifting about the harbour with no one on board. Her crew had abandoned her on hearing an air-raid warning and taken refuge in the shelters ashore. Eventually they were rounded up and the tug got the *Rorqual* off just as the first air-raid of the night was beginning.

In the *Ægean* the *Rorqual* had a very unpleasant experience. Commander Napier thought that all the mines had been laid when he sighted an enemy convoy and attacked, hitting one ship with torpedoes. As the submarine dived deep to avoid the inevitable counter-attack from the convoy escort, there was a noise like an express train passing close above their heads and then a terrific crash. The din was repeated as the diving-angle was taken off the submarine. What had happened was that about two-thirds of the cargo of mines had hung up and had not, in fact, been laid, and these were



charging up and down the rails in the mine-casing as the submarine took on an angle.

"One night, during the final stages of the Tunisian campaign, the *Rorqual* went close inshore to lay her mines, and then I found that they were hanging up owing to a mechanical defect. We withdrew to seaward to make good the defect, but it was brilliant moonlight and the only cover I could find was a small island with steep cliffs. That night we lay close under the cliffs, only about 200 yards from the shore, hoping that the island was not in German hands, while two officers and an engine-room artificer worked in the mine-casing. If we had been surprised we should have had to dive at once and those men would inevitably have been drowned. They made good the defect and we laid the mines in the right place the next night."

#### BATTLE OVER GERMANY

Strong relays of German fighters, obviously under "do-or-die" orders, attacked United States heavy bombers in a three hours' battle over North-Western Germany to-day.

The Luftwaffe appeared to concentrate every available fighter against the comparatively small force of Fortresses and its fighter escort which attacked Brunswick. The battle started when the Fortresses crossed the enemy coast and ended when they were over the Channel on their way out. German fighters, fifteen in line abreast, attacked the fortresses; others dived through in line astern, keeping up what one Fortress pilot called a "devil's merry-go-round." There were never less than 75 and sometimes as many as 200 fighters attacking in a sky clear except for a few clouds which gave the Germans ambush cover. Fast single-engined fighters engaged the Allied Thunderbolts and Lightnings while the slower twin-engined rocket planes hammered at the bomber units.

The battle was fought out five miles high, where the temperatures were 40 degrees below zero.

Despite all opposition the bombers got through. Bomb-aimers reported that their "block-busters" dropped squarely in the aiming point and a great column of smoke and flame was seen.

Crews on their return described how squadrons of German fighters roared in together and how Fortresses exploded and

went down with the German fighters which had attacked them. "More than 100 German fighters attacked a wing of bombers about a mile to our right," one pilot said. "When a Fortress started straggling they would all hop on it until they battered it down. Twice I saw three fighters going down in flames. Parachutes, some black and some white, seemed to fill the sky."

Another pilot said that he saw one Fortress explode and take another one down with it. "But," he added, "most of the destruction was on the ground."

*Saturday, February 12th.*

A statement issued from 10, Downing Street (obviously to allay public uneasiness) says that General Wilson and General Alexander have expressed their confidence that the battle for Rome will be won.

German attacks have slackened, and British troops in the Carrocetto sector have regained much lost ground.

The Russians have completely cleared the Germans from the eastern shore of Lake Peipus and occupied Luga.

*Tuesday, February 15th.*

Yesterday the Green Islands, in the Solomons, were occupied by New Zealand and American troops. This virtually completes the campaign for the Solomons, which are of vital strategic importance.

For a fortnight the Allies have fought a desperate battle for the town of Cassino, the strongest German defence point on the road to Rome, and by bitter house-to-house fighting a third of the town has been occupied. It is dominated by the monastery of Monte Cassino, the cradle of the Benedictine Order, which has hitherto been spared by the Allied artillery and bombers, at the direct request of the Pope. But the monastery was turned into a powerful fortress by the Germans, and to-day it has been almost entirely destroyed by Allied bombers.

*Wednesday, February 16th.*

Last night Berlin received its heaviest air attack yet, when the R.A.F. dropped over 2,500 tons of bombs in 20 minutes.

President Roosevelt declared at his Press conference yesterday that the Allied bombing of the Benedictine Monas-

tery at Cassino was justified. He said that orders had been issued on December 29th, 1943, concerning the protection of historical monuments. One by General Eisenhower said that such monuments were bound to be respected "so far as war allows." It added: "If we have to choose between destroying a famous building and sacrificing our own men, then our men's lives count infinitely more and the buildings must go. Nothing can stand against the argument of military necessity."

In his reply to charges made in a debate in the House of Lords to-day on the Government's bombing policy, Viscount Simon, the Lord Chancellor, explained the Cabinet's attitude. He said that, subject to military necessity, every effort would be made to avoid damage to monuments and artistic collections which were part of the heritage of Christian civilisation. The necessities of war must be put far in front of any consideration of special historical or cultural values.

The Germans are still holding the ruins of Cassino monastery.

This morning the Germans began their heaviest assault so far on the Anzio bridgehead, and Allied aircraft made powerful counter-attacks.

At dawn to-day American naval forces launched an attack on Truk, in the Caroline Islands, Japan's greatest naval base in the Central Pacific. Several hundreds of carrier-borne planes took part; at least 23 Japanese ships were sunk, many damaged, and over 200 aircraft destroyed.

Yesterday a pro-German group of army officers overthrew the Ramirez Government and seized power in the Argentine.

### *Friday, February 18th.*

Marshal Stalin announced last night the final destruction, after 14 days continuous fighting, of the German Eighth Army, trapped in the Korsun area. The enemy lost 52,000 killed, 11,000 prisoners, and their equipment.

To-night Moscow announced the capture of Staraya Russa, a key position near Lake Ilmen, and of Shminsk.

In the first twelve hours of the Fifth Army's assault on Cassino, opened to-day, 50,000 shells were fired into the town and mountain.

A Mosquito transport plane recently covered 2,400 miles in 10 hours—the flying time being 9 hours.

The first French "purge" trial opened in Algiers yesterday, when 11 prisoners (6 of them French) were charged with murder and torture of anti-Nazis in Algerian concentration camps.

Graphic stories of heroism among men of the Maquis—the resistance groups in France—were told in London to-day by a young French leader, M. Raymond Aubrac, who is on his way to join the Consultative Assembly in Algiers. Captured, tortured and sentenced to death by the Gestapo he was rescued on his way to execution by Maquis led by his wife. He said his comrades were anxious that the people of England should know that they were fighting night and day.

*Sunday, February 20th.*

Early this morning the R.A.F. dropped 2,300 tons of bombs on Leipzig in a few minutes : 79 bombers were lost—the heaviest price so far paid for one night's operations. To-day the greatest daylight air attack yet was made when 2,000 American bombers and fighters raided Leipzig, Gotha, Bernberg and Brunswick. It is believed that they put out of action a quarter of Germany's fighter production.

Early yesterday morning and again to-night the Luftwaffe dropped phosphorus bombs on London, causing a number of fires. Several of the raiders were brought down.

#### MEDALS FOR PIGEONS

Three R.A.F. pigeons have received medals for gallantry. The medals will be fastened on their home lofts.

Pigeon No. 1—the R.A.F.'s official name for her, but more familiarly called "Winkie" by the crew—fell into the oil-covered sea after her aircraft practically broke up on the impact of "ditching." She struggled clear with 120 miles of sea to cover before reaching land and with only 1½ hours of wintry daylight remaining. Exhausted and smeared with oil, Winkie arrived at her loft soon after dawn and the search for her crew was successfully re-directed.

"White Vision" battled through a 25 m.p.h. head wind, thick mist and storm conditions for 8 hours and 40 minutes to carry a message from an R.A.F. flying-boat in northern waters. Her crew was saved. The third pigeon had the advantage of a warmer climate, but had 100 miles to take the message which saved her crew.

*Tuesday, February 22nd.*

Krivoi Rog, the great fortress and iron ore centre in the Dnieper Bend, has fallen to the Russians.

The attacks on the Anzio beach-head have been checked. The assault on Cassino continues, the terrific bombing and shelling which it has suffered having failed to destroy German resistance.

The Anglo-American air offensive continues to grow in fury. During the past 48 hours about 5,500 planes have raided Germany, dropping some 7,500 tons of bombs. To-day the U.S. 8th and 15th Air Forces launched the first co-ordinated attack from bases in Britain and Italy, mainly against aircraft factories. Mr. Churchill stated to-day in the House of Commons that our air offensive is the foundation for our invasion plans.

The Admiralty announced to-day the award of the V.C. to Lieut. G. B. C. Place, D.S.C., R.N., and to Lieut. D. Cameron, R.N.R., both prisoners of war. On September 22nd, 1943, they took their midget submarines, X6 and X7, through 50 miles of mine guarded fjord and inside the last defence nets to strike at the 41,000-ton battleship, *Tirpitz*, which was so badly damaged that she is unlikely to move for months yet.

Greek andartes (guerrillas), who carried out to-day a successful attack on a German armoured train, were led by a British officer, and acted on instructions from G.H.Q., Middle East. In this first action organised and led by the British in the campaign flaring across the Balkans, it is estimated that 440 Germans, including a general and his staff, were killed and several hundred wounded, and the main Salonika-Athens line has been put out of action for some days.

The Allied offensive in the Pacific continues. To-day the conquest of the Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshalls was completed, and yesterday task forces struck at Saipan and Tinian in the Marianne group.

*Friday, February 25th.*

Last night, for the fifth night in succession, German raiders dropped incendiaries and high explosives on London, causing fires and some casualties. The London barrage is now tremendous and rockets and tracers streak the sky with coloured flame. Ten raiders were brought down last night and five on Wednesday. There were enemy planes over many



*Daily Telegraph*

FINLAND AND THE RUSSIAN FRONT, FROM THE ARCTIC OCEAN TO Leningrad

parts of East Anglia and the Home Counties also. But the Luftwaffe's retort is negligible when compared with the devastating Anglo-American raids which are now destroying German fighter production. Schweinfurt, Steyr and Regensburg are among the latest targets.

Moscow announced last night the capture of Dno and Rogachev on the Leningrad-Odessa railway.

The King has spent two days with British invasion troops.

Warning leaflets are delivered by special airmail to the Greek population every time the R.A.F. and United States Army Air Force heavy bombers start blasting operations against German warships, freighters and harbour installations at the Piræus, the port of Athens, a "top priority" target. A few weeks ago one of these raids laid the main railway station in ruins and set the Nazi merchant shipping blazing like torches in the harbour.

*Monday, February 28th.*

In Burma, British and Indian troops of the Fourteenth Army have decisively broken the determined Japanese offensive on the Arakan front. One of the war's outstanding operations of sustained supply from the air was a big factor in this success. At one stage the Seventh Indian Division was encircled. Working day and night for 11 days, R.A.F. and American transport aircraft kept the division supplied with everything it needed to fight the enemy to a standstill: ammunition, food, petrol for tanks, and medical supplies. Now that the threat has been beaten off and over half the attacking Japanese force is dead or wounded, the story can be safely told.

Heavy Russian air raids on Finland are being made as "final notice" to her to withdraw from the war. She has been given the Russian terms for an armistice.

The Prime Minister's son, Major Randolph Churchill, M.P., is in Yugoslavia with Marshal Tito, leader of the National Army of Liberation.

The Japanese Premier, General Tojo, has warned the nation that "a decisive" phase has been reached in Japan's life and death struggle, with the appearance of a powerful American fleet in the Marianne Islands, 1,400 miles from Tokyo.



A huge cloud of smoke rises from the German battleship *Tirpitz* as the first wave of Barracuda dive bombers of the Fleet Air Arm score direct hits during their attack on the ship in Alten Fjord on April 3rd.  
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INCENDIARIES  
ON A  
JAPANESE  
AIRFIELD

Phosphorous bomb  
being scattered by  
United States plane  
over Lakunai airfield  
at Rabaul, New  
Britain. These in-  
cendiary bombs pro-  
ject particles of burn-  
ing phosphorus over  
considerable dis-  
tances.

(U.S. Official  
Photo)

## MARCH 1944

*Wednesday, March 1st.*

A new offensive against the Anzio beach-head has been begun by German tanks and infantry, between Carrocetto and Cisterna.

More than 11,700 tons of bombs were dropped on Germany by Bomber Command last month. Shipping losses last month were the lowest since 1941 ; more U-boats than merchantmen were sunk.

Late last night Russia's armistice terms to Finland were officially announced by Moscow radio. They are very moderate.

*Friday, March 3rd.*

The R.A.F. are now using 12,000 lb. bombs, over 5½ tons, by far the biggest yet known in air warfare. First disclosure of this was made to-night. The "factory buster" was invented by British scientists for precision attacks on special targets. A few of these bombs destroyed the greater part of the big Gnome aero-engine works at Limoges on February 8th.

To-day American planes made their first appearance over Berlin, when Lightning long-range fighters carried out a feint attack while Flying Fortresses and Liberators with fighter escorts raided north-western Germany.

After suffering very heavy casualties the Germans have been halted in their offensive against the Anzio beachhead : the Allies have regained all lost ground.

In Northern Italy 6,000,000 workers have gone on strike.

The Government had a narrow escape from defeat in the House of Commons late last night on a motion calling for increased Army pay and allowances.

It is estimated, writes Commander Kenneth Edwards, R.N., *Daily Telegraph* Naval Correspondent, that about 100,000 Japanese troops have been cut off and virtually abandoned in the Bismarck-Solomon area by the latest Allied moves. The latest moves by the United Nations in the South-West Pacific show that General MacArthur, Allied C.-in-C. South-West Pacific, and Admiral Nimitz, C.-in-C.

United States Pacific Fleet share the same strategy—to cut the communications of the enemy concentrations and then to by-pass them, knowing that they cannot be reinforced or supplied.

Mr. Churchill, who was the guest of honour of the Royal College of Physicians at a luncheon at the Savoy Hotel yesterday, said : “ I am a surgeon myself, but my experiences in medicine have been vivid and violent, and completely absorbing while they were going on.” (Laughter). “ I have a patient whom I have been looking after for some years, and I am glad to be able to assure you that she is no longer in mortal danger.” (Cheers). “ On that I can give you an absolute assurance.”

*Monday, March 6th.*

To-day American heavy bombers delivered their first daylight attack on Berlin, escorted by hundreds of long-range Mustang, Lightning and Thunderbolt fighters. The stream of Flying Fortresses was 15 miles long. Great damage was done in the city, two large areas were left in flames, and at least 123 enemy aircraft were shot down for the loss of 79 American planes.

At the same time targets in France were attacked by nearly 300 Marauders without loss.

Last night an Order of the Day by Marshal Stalin announced a break-through on a front of 112 miles, to a depth of 15 to 30 miles, in the Western Ukraine. The Russians have now cut the vital Lvov-Odessa railway. The Germans in two days lost 15,000 killed and 3,000 taken prisoner.

On the Italian fronts there is a lull due to bad weather.

*Tuesday, March 7th.*

The Russians are closing on Tarnopol.

Toulon U-boat base was bombed to-day by Flying Fortresses.

Only one merchant ship in every 1,000 sailing the seas was sunk by U-boats in the latter half of 1943 as compared with one in every 181 in 1941, Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, told the House of Commons to-day when he introduced the Navy Estimates. He declared that the Navy had never since the fall of France been stronger in relation

to the enemy's strength at sea than to-day. Despite the loss of 13 warships in the escort of convoys to Russia, 88 per cent. of all cargoes had got through.

### H.M.S. " PENELOPE "

The loss of the famous cruiser, H.M.S. *Penelope*, off the Nettuno beach-head, was announced by Mr. Alexander in the House of Commons to-day. Her commander, Captain Belben, was lost with his ship. For a time she was nicknamed H.M.S. *Pepperpot* ; she received 2,000 splinter holes from near misses during 14 days' incessant bombing by the Luftwaffe while lying in the Grand Harbour at Malta. At the height of the attack, all hands, including stewards and cooks, helped to feed the guns, unloading ammunition from freighters alongside. Work of repairing the cruiser never ceased. The more serious holes were plugged, and she was ready to sail almost on schedule.

Unescorted, and with only one of her main armament turrets functioning, her sides bristling with wooden plugs, the *Penelope* shaped course for Gibraltar. She beat off six further air attacks and, with ammunition almost gone, reached harbour without casualties or damage. Her commander during this time was Capt. A. D. Nicholl.

*Penelope* has also fought with battleships off Malta, taken part in the Norwegian campaign, helped to fight important convoys through to Malta, and figured in one of the most decisive convoy actions of the war in the Central Mediterranean. It resulted in the sinking of nine enemy supply ships, a destroyer, and a big tanker.

After being refitted in America, *Penelope* was in the thick of the Mediterranean fighting. She carried out bombardments of Pantellaria, Lampedusa and Sicily, and was in action off Salerno and Stampalia.

*Wednesday, March 8th.*

In the second daylight raid on Berlin, the U.S. 8th Air Force to-day dropped 10,000 high explosive bombs and 350,000 incendiaries, for a loss of 38 bombers and 16 fighters. They shot down 83 German fighters.

In Italy the Allied air-offensive has been resumed.

*Friday, March 10th.*

The Russians have made further great advances on the Ukrainian fronts. Last night they announced the capture of Staro Konstantinov, Novy Bug, Kazanka and 200 other places, and the forcing of the River Ingulets ; and to-night the capture of Uman and Kristinovka, with the defeat of 9 Nazi divisions.

Yesterday American bombers attacked Berlin without loss—its fourth heavy raid in 6 days. A great ball-bearing factory was among the targets.

The Anglo-American air offensive has greatly decreased German industrial capacity, especially fighter aircraft production, and greatly increased war weariness. In 5 weeks 46,000 tons of bombs have been dropped on the Nazis.

Washington announced that on February 21st the American Government asked the Government of Eire to remove all Axis representatives from Eire, to reduce espionage, and that Mr. de Valera immediately refused.

*Monday, March 13th.*

The great port of Kherson, on the Black Sea, has been captured by the Russians and Marshal Koniev's troops have reached the River Bug.

All travel between Britain and Ireland, including Northern Ireland, is stopped from to-day, to prevent news of military movements reaching German and Japanese agents in Eire.

The South-East Command announced the capture of Buthidaung, in Arakan, and Chinese and American advances in North Burma.

The Allies have made further landings in the Marshall and Admiralty Islands.

Russia and Italy are to resume diplomatic relations.

Rome is threatened with starvation. Florence was bombed on Saturday for the first time.

#### GREEK RESISTANCE

The Andartes, the Greek guerrillas, are working on the principles of the Ku Klux Klan in their campaign against the Germans. They assemble at given rendezvous for work of

sabotage, such as train wrecking or demolishing a bridge, and then disperse to their homes or mountain hiding-places. Nowadays they are sometimes led by British officers who have parachuted into Greece and who are in touch with G.H.Q. by radio. Unhappily, each act of sabotage, each blow at the German occupation army, is followed by savage reprisals. For every German soldier killed, Germans now take 50 hostages and shoot them out of hand. Usually there is a round-up in the immediate vicinity of the place where the dead German was found, soldiers visiting houses indiscriminately and dragging off victims. Sometimes workers on their way to work find a cordon across the road and at the whim of the officer in charge men are seized for slaughter. Sometimes the Germans have destroyed a whole village by machine-gunning and burning, as at Kalavryta, where all the men between 14 and 70 were murdered in a mass execution. Eighteen hundred villages have been plundered, burned and devastated, and more than a million people are homeless.

#### HOW CASSINO WAS DESTROYED

Between breakfast and lunch to-day, in brilliant weather, I saw Cassino flattened from the air by persistent, almost ceaseless, bombing over the space of nearly four hours. So writes Christopher Buckley, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent with the Fifth Army.

General Alexander, C-in-C. in Italy ; Lt.-General Devers, Deputy Supreme Commander ; Lt.-General Eaker, commanding Mediterranean Allied Air Forces ; and General Mark Clark, commanding the Fifth Army, watched the operation, which is officially described as "unsurpassed in the history of warfare."

Picture to yourself this fantastic backcloth of hills, rising sheer above the plain, with the town of Cassino and the thin silver stream of the Rapido River at its foot dominated by the shattered and whitened ruins of the monastery. Beyond in a majestic semi-circle are the snow-capped peaks of the Apennines. That was the spectacle at which American and British troops in turn have gazed fruitlessly during the past two months. For more than three weeks a profound calm had settled on this front. To-day there was a change, abrupt and dramatic.

Punctually at 8.30 a.m. it started. The first wave of medium bombers, silver-grey against the serene dispassionate blue of the sky, hummed overhead, perhaps 8,000, perhaps 10,000 feet up. In the calm spring sunshine they passed on their majestic way towards the town. One saw them dip, saw the bombs, tiny black specks, released one after another.

Then below, spout after spout of thick black smoke leaped from the earth, from the town itself, joined and coiled slowly upwards like some gigantic monstrous dark forest of fantasy until three-quarters of the town was completely obscured in a widening and deepening dark smudge.

I counted some 18 separate waves, averaging from 18 to 36 bombers in each, between 8.30 a.m. and noon. The mediums started the ball, then the heavies, Fortresses and Liberators, took up the running. Finally, the mediums came in once more with some extremely accurate bombing slap on the town itself. It was during that last hour, I should judge, that the major part of the damage was done.

There is a quality of lordly, even arrogant, impersonality about a bombing attack on this scale, particularly when, as was the case to-day, there was an almost total absence of opposition.

Standing on the hillside, in perfect safety in the pleasant spring sunshine, it was easy, perhaps too easy, to feel compunction ; but I was in Warsaw on September 1st, 1939, and I remember from the evidence of my own eyes who was responsible for letting loose this terrible weapon.

The attack had a clear-cut and definite object—to destroy every building in Cassino and reduce to rubble the ancient stone houses concealing the countless guns which have so stubbornly blocked the Fifth Army's advance in Italy. Every unit of the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces was in action. Fortresses, Liberators, Marauders, Mitchells and Bostons were supported by Lightnings, Thunderbolts and Spitfires as escorts. It is believed that the total number of sorties to-day is likely to have exceeded 3,000.

At noon the operation passed into a fresh phase when the British artillery opened up in immense strength against the entire German front line on the Rapido sector at and on either side of Cassino. I scarcely remember since Alamein such a pandemonium—I use the word advisedly. The shell-bursts of our 25-pounders looked pigmy beside the immense explosions caused by the bombing, but they were wonderfully

accurate and one could see that the entire enemy line was being plastered preparatory to our next move. The noise was greater than ever and far more constant. It seemed impossible that anything could live in the tortured, pounded rectangle which formed the enemy's forward line.

The mass air attack on Cassino had long been expected after the failure of the earlier infantry assaults in January and February, but its delivery was delayed for about three weeks by a serious break in the weather.

There is no doubt that the Germans have organised their defence in depth and have left the smallest possible number of troops in the more vulnerable forward positions. Even here they will be dug in deeply, with concrete and steel emplacements and other devices. To-day's massive assault will at least provide a test case of the possibilities of this method of attack. Our air forces dropped 1,400 tons of bombs on an area of less than one square mile. The town is now absolutely unrecognisable.

#### *Wednesday, March 15th.*

In Upper Burma columns of British troops have crossed the Chindwin River, after a hundred-mile march through "fantastic country," and are threatening Mogaung, on the railway to Mandalay. Chinese troops under the American General Stilwell, are advancing on Mogaung from the north-west.

The Anglo-American air offensive continues. London was raided last night, and at least 13 raiders were brought down.

#### *Thursday, March 16th.*

Tanks and infantry, fighting grimly in torrential rain, have captured three quarters of Cassino.

Last night, for the first time, the R.A.F. sent out over 1,000 heavy bombers together, and in the mightiest air assault yet made they dropped over 3,000 tons of bombs on Stuttgart and Munich. To-day the Americans bombed industrial targets at Augsburg and Ulm.

Several German divisions encircled near the Black Sea naval base of Nikolayev have been wiped out. The Russians have captured Dubrio.



*Friday, March 17th.*

Vienna was bombed to-day for the first time, from the Mediterranean.

Finland has not rejected the Russian armistice terms but wants modifications.

### IN CASSINO'S RUINS

The struggle in Cassino is grim. For more than 48 hours a Fifth Army spearhead of New Zealanders has been advancing over and among the débris from the northern end of the town in swift rushes alternating with concentrated artillery bombardment. Now only a small pocket of resistance remains in the extreme south-west corner.

This cannot be called house-to-house fighting, as it was in Ortona, because there are very few houses left. Instead it involves the methodical cleaning up of machine-gun nests concealed behind heaps of rubble. It is the kind of battle in which the resources and quickness of reaction of the individual soldier are of paramount importance in rushing positions which are being defended by hardened German parachutists with the utmost tenacity. Few prisoners are being taken. It is not that sort of battle, and the parachutists are not that sort of opponent.

Suicide squads of defenders are continuing to fight back with small arms, while the German artillery in the plain behind is giving them covering fire. Cassino's streets have been cratered to such an extent by the bombing that at first the use of tanks in the town itself was almost impossible. Some of the craters are anything up to 50 feet deep and half full of water. But we have succeeded in getting a number of tanks in from the west. In fighting of this nature the tank is invaluable against isolated detachments of machine-gunners. But danger lies in the hidden anti-tank guns in the hills.

Indian units have been forcing their way up the various spurs of Monastery Hill. Again and again yesterday, as they thrust from one spur to the next along the approaches to the crest, the monastery itself on the summit was obscured from view by smoke shells to hinder enemy observation. The situation of the Germans in and around the monastery is becoming extremely hazardous, and it would not be sur-

prising to find them counter-attacking with all the means at their disposal. For possession of the summit and of the monastery ruins is of vital importance to their entire position. It is the keystone of what remains of the Gustav Line. Concealed in caves and recesses hollowed out in the side of the hill, they have many field and anti-tank guns. Mounted on tank tracks, these glide out to fire and then disappear again into the hillside. They represent just one of the many types of obstacle impeding the advance of our forces.

*Saturday, March 18th.*

There have been great air battles over Germany to-day, while American bombers raided southern targets. The R.A.F. raided Sofia last night and the night before.

The Japanese base of Lorengan, in the Admiralty Islands, fell to the Americans this evening after fierce resistance.

#### AN ARMY WENT BY AIR

A 12 days' silence over the most spectacular and daring operation of the Burma campaign was broken to-day, writes Martin Moore, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent in Calcutta, by the disclosure of a landing by glider-borne troops 200 miles behind the enemy's lines. This is the first time that so many men, fully equipped and organised, have been carried hundreds of miles from their base and successfully landed by air far behind the enemy lines. For the first time a fully equipped fighter squadron has been landed on a jungle strip.

Men, mules and all the equipment for a large self-contained force, including even a bulldozer, have been flown without opposition over the 7,000 feet Chin Hills and planted securely in a strategic position. Our entire force had been established inside Burma eight days before the Japanese even discovered where it was. By that time air and ground defences were strong enough to drive off enemy air attacks. We are now astride the communications of the enemy's northern army.

*Sunday, March 19th.*

Last night a great part of Frankfurt, the chemical and engineering centre, was destroyed by the R.A.F., and an

explosives factory near Bordeaux was obliterated by 12,000 lb. bombs.

The Russians have crossed the Dniester on a 30 mile front and captured more than 40 places in Bessarabia.

Five little sloops, led by H.M.S. *Starling*, Captain F. J. Walker, D.S.O. and two bars, recently escorted a convoy 6,000 miles without loss and sank 6 U-boats.

*Monday, March 20th.*

Berlin radio said to-night that the ruins of Cassino Monastery have changed hands several times in the past 48 hours.

Vinnitsa and Mogilev Podolski have been taken by the Russians.

German troops have occupied the whole of Hungary, as a precaution against the Russian advance.

Pierre Pucheu, former Vichy Minister of the Interior, was executed at dawn to-day.

Colonel Owen Noel, British Resident Commissioner in the Solomon Islands, to-day told N. C. Braidwood, *Daily Telegraph* Correspondent at South-West Pacific H.Q., something of the remarkable and successful guerrilla warfare carried on by Englishmen, Australians and New Zealanders who refused to leave when the Japanese invaded the islands. "The British flag has never been down in the Solomons," he said. He gave me many examples of how his Australian and New Zealand officers worked with the natives in the jungle behind the Japanese lines; how they disrupted Japanese communications and upset the enemy's plans by sending false information. "Our boys fought when the Japanese came, and they are still fighting," he said.

The King was best man to-day at the private wedding of twenty-year-old King Peter of Yugoslavia and twenty-three-year-old Princess Alexandra of Greece. He was also the first to kiss the bride. The wedding took place at the Yugoslav Embassy in London.

*Tuesday, March 21st.*

Several German divisions have been sent into Rumania through Hungary, and German troops have seized key points in Sofia and communications throughout Bulgaria.

From April 1st a coastal strip about 10 miles deep, from the Wash to Land's End, will be barred to visitors "for reasons of operational security."



Daily Telegraph

EASTERN EUROPE AND THE RUSSIAN FRONT FROM LENINGRAD TO THE BLACK SEA

*Thursday, March 23rd.*

Yesterday American bombers dropped nearly 1,400 tons of bombs on Berlin : 13 planes are missing. Last night R.A.F. Bomber Command made a new record by dropping 3,000 tons of incendiaries and high explosive on Frankfurt in 30 minutes. The offensive was continued to-day with raids on railway centres in Germany and Northern France.

Yesterday morning, early, six German planes were shot down in a raid on London.

The desperate struggle for Cassino continues.

Last night Moscow announced the capture of Pervomaisk, only a 100 miles from Odessa.

The Germans have overthrown the Hungarian Government and set up a puppet régime.

Japanese troops are reported to have crossed the Burma frontier and entered the Indian state of Manipur.

#### “ ALL OVER THE SKY ”

Sitting in his turret with his guns out of action, a Halifax tail gunner, by a running commentary on an enemy fighter's manœuvres, enabled his pilot to evade six attacks by a Ju. 88 during the R.A.F.'s 3,000-ton raid on Frankfurt last night. Time after time the Ju. swept in to 50 yards, firing its cannon, but Sgt. P. N. Howdle, of Birmingham, the gunner, gave prompt directions to his pilot, who “ dived all over the sky.” Despite a blazing wing the Halifax bombed its target and got home safely.

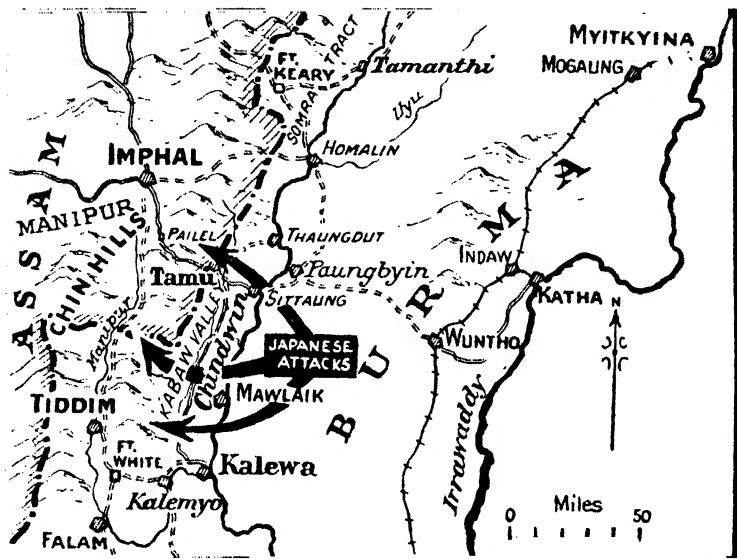
*Saturday, March 25th.*

In Burma, Allied troops are closing in on Myitkina.

Marshal Antonescu, the Rumanian Prime Minister and his brother, are being held as hostages by Hitler against the Rumanian Government's move to make peace with the Allies.

Between November 18th and February 15th, 326 major factories in Berlin were destroyed or damaged. Of 1,500 satellite plants in the capital 400 are virtually destroyed and 375 seriously damaged. These facts are contained in the Air Ministry report, “ Battle of Berlin ”—published yesterday. Berlin contained 103 factories named by the Ministry of Economic Warfare as key-point plants “ of the highest importance to the enemy's war effort or economic survival.”

No other city in Germany contained as many. As one R.A.F. pilot wrote in chalk on a "block buster" he dropped: "You have the best targets. We bomb them."



Daily Telegraph

## THE ASSAM-BURMA FRONTIER, AND THE JAPANESE ATTEMPT TO INVADE INDIA

*Monday, March 27th.*

Rain and snow have reduced the fighting at Cassino to an artillery duel.

Kamenets-Podolski has been stormed by Russian tanks and infantry.

Essen and Hanover were bombed last night, military targets in France to-day.

Mr. Churchill, in a 50-minute broadcast last night, surveyed briefly the progress of the war and dealt with problems that will arise after it, particularly housing. "The hour of our

greatest effort is approaching," he said. "The only home-ward road for all of us lies through the arch of victory." In the air, the tables had been turned. The enemy were "reeling and writhing under the prodigious blows of British and American air power." The greatest cause of Hitler's undoing was the Russian armies' 900-mile advance in a single year. "The guts of the German Army have been largely torn out." The greatest danger we had overcome was "the mortal U-boat peril."

London's "Salute the Soldier" week, part of the great War Savings campaign, got into its stride to-day. The outstanding event was a parade representing many branches of the Forces, which marched through the City past St. Paul's, to Trafalgar Square, and thence to Buckingham Palace, where, from a stand in front, the King took the salute. His Majesty, who was in the uniform of a Field-marshal, was accompanied by the Queen and Princess Elizabeth.

*Wednesday, March 29th.*

An Order of the Day by Marshal Stalin announced last night the capture of the Black Sea naval base of Nikolayev, and Berlin stated that the Russians had crossed the River Pruth into Rumania. To-night it was announced that Marshal Zhukov's troops of the First Ukrainian Front had taken Kolomya, a stronghold in the Carpathian foothills.

The Germans are counter-attacking strongly at Cassino.

More than 2,100 German aircraft have been destroyed in the last eight weeks by an "invading force" of 170,000 American airmen of the Eighth and Ninth Air Forces.

#### THE NAZIS IN UMAN

It is not often, writes the *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent in the Ukraine, that one has the opportunity to watch the life-blood slowly returning to a community. Here in Uman, a lovely small city of broad, tree-lined streets and plaster-covered homes that may be considered typical of this incredibly rich section of the South-Western Ukraine, I have had that experience.

Dr. Mark Bondarenko, head of the city health department, who lived here during the entire occupation, gave me some of the details.

A ghetto was established in the vicinity of two synagogues

immediately after the Nazis' arrival. Before a month had elapsed, 1,500 men, women and children had been rounded up, crowded into the basement of a single building, and left until they suffocated. That was only the beginning, said Dr. Bondarenko. In mid-October, 1941, there was a four-day massacre in a ravine called Sukhoi Yar, west of Uman. About 8,000 persons perished. A third round-up occurred early in January, 1942, with a death toll estimated at 2,000. Outside the ghetto area four Jewish doctors were hanged as a grim warning.

Dr. Bondarenko said that he himself saw a woman shot in the street for being beyond the ghetto confines without a pass. At that time the only Jews who remained in Uman were workers and artisans whose services were required. But in March, 1943, when the Red Army winter offensive was still far to the east, the Nazis executed 200, together with their families, about 600 persons in all, in the Sobjovsky Forest, about four miles from the town. The last of Uman's Jewish population, some sixty skilled workers, were removed at the end of last year.

Last January there was a general hunting down of persons accused of contact with the Partisans. One group comprised the entire staff of thirteen of the venereal disease clinic. They were charged with providing medicines and bandages for the guerrillas.

Their grave was an open trough in a wind-swept potato field behind a war prisoners' camp. The Germans never bothered to bury them and forbade others to perform even this last simple service to the dead. "It was a bitter morning when I saw them. Relatives had taken some away for separate burial, but others are still unidentified," said Dr. Bondarenko. "I counted at least 100 bodies in one group, huddled together where they had fallen. Some had died hard. One man's blackened body was still contorted in agony. Others had met death with simple dignity. One such was a child in a black velvet cap and home-made boots. She was no more than six or seven years old. Shot through the chest, she had fallen near the body of a woman, probably her mother. She still clutched a market basket in her outstretched hand."

Three persons who lived near the field told of seeing Germans take pleading women, push them into furrows and shoot them with pistols in a final savage act before their departure.



*Thursday, March 30th.*

The capture of Cernauti was announced to-night by an Order of the Day from Marshal Stalin, and hailed in Moscow by 20 salvoes from 224 guns. Marshal Zhukov's armies are now only 16 miles from the Hungarian border and 7 miles from Rumania. The River Pruth defence line has been turned.

Sofia was bombed last night and to-day by Allied Air Forces from the Mediterranean. The air offensive against Germany continues.

*Friday, March 31st.*

Two thousand tons of bombs blasted Nuremburg, an important railway and industrial centre in Southern Germany, last night, when R.A.F. bombers in very great strength, probably numbering 1,000, attacked the city in moonlight. For three hours there was a ferocious battle between the largest number of fighters the Luftwaffe has yet put up at night and the great force of Lancasters and Halifaxes. Ninety-four of our aircraft are missing, the heaviest loss yet experienced by the R.A.F. in a single night's operation.

Sofia was raided for the fifth time.

Ocharov has been taken by the Russians.

The War Office announced that Major-General O. C. Wingate, D.S.O., was killed in a plane crash in Burma, on March 24th. He had been commanding the offensive against the Japanese and the airborne troops operating behind their lines.

Mr. Churchill was so impressed by the achievements of General Wingate's Chindits, or jungle commandos, who early last year penetrated Japanese positions for 1,000 miles, that he summoned him last summer to 10, Downing Street to discuss the repetition of that expedition on bigger and more ambitious lines. Next day General Wingate left with the Prime Minister to attend the Quebec Conference in August. There his plans for beating the Japanese in Burma were adopted. Throughout the history of war the number of leaders who have invented a new technique of warfare is small indeed—and Wingate, with his Long Distance Penetration Group, will rank as one of them.



#### "HUMAN TORPEDO"

Manned by personnel of the Submarine Branch of the Royal Navy, these craft are driven by electric batteries, and carry two men wearing diving suits.  
*(From Captain's Report.)*



#### SMASHING ENEMY COMMUNICATIONS

The railway yards at Juvisy, near Paris, photographed before and after a tremendous R.A.F. attack. The target has been completely obliterated. The turn table (seen in the bottom left hand corner of the picture), workshops, repair depots and warehouses have all disappeared in a welter of bomb debris.

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## APRIL 1944

*Saturday, April 1st.*

The Russians have crossed the line from which the Germans and their jackals invaded Russia on June 22nd, 1941 : last night's Moscow communiqué announced the capture of Darabani in Rumania.

During March, R.A.F. Bomber Command dropped 28,000 tons of bombs on Germany and occupied countries, delivered by more than 8,000 planes. 275 planes were lost over Germany.

U.S.A. made a new record during the month by building 9,118 aircraft, of a total weight of 103,400,000 lbs.

*Monday, April 3rd.*

Moscow broadcast last night a statement by Mr. Molotov, Soviet Foreign Commissar, that Russia did not intend to annex Rumanian territory or interfere with the Rumanian social structure, but that the Rumanian army would be attacked until it surrendered.

Odessa is on fire ; the Germans are destroying it before they withdraw.

An attack on the Anzio bridgehead, which the Germans began with mortar-fire and flame-throwers on Saturday evening, has been defeated.

Small parties of Japanese have crossed the Indian frontier and reached the Imphal-Kohima road.

Germany's great battleship, the *Tirpitz*, 45,000 to 50,000 tons, is now thought to be useless as a warship. Just as she was leaving her protected anchorage in the Alten Fjord, North Norway, at dawn to-day, she was bombed and crippled by planes from the largest carrier force ever concentrated against a single vessel. At least 24 hits were scored by 42 Barracudas, the Navy's remarkable new monoplane dive-bombers. Four planes were lost. The *Tirpitz's* guns were silenced. Her magazine is believed to have been hit. When the planes left she was shrouded in smoke and burning fiercely. She had just been patched up after being damaged by British midget submarines on September 22nd, 1943.

*Wednesday, April 5th.*

American bombers yesterday raided Bucharest, and to-day Berlin, Munich, and the great Rumanian oilfields at Ploesti, where extensive fires were caused.

The General Council of the Trade Union Congress has issued an appeal to miners, whose continued unofficial strikes are causing much concern.

The Russians have cut the main German escape route from Odessa by capturing the railway junction of Razvelnaya.

### THREE GEORGE MEDALS

A peer, a factory foreman and a fitter have each been awarded the George Medal.

The peer, Nathaniel Mayer Victor, third Baron Rothschild, an administrative assistant at the War Office, receives the award for "dangerous work in hazardous circumstances." No further details are given.

Mr. Harry Hudson, foreman in a Ministry of Supply ordnance factory, was in charge of mixing and heating explosives when the mixture caught fire. Hudson, with the help of Mr. Rowell Hall, an overlooker, who receives the B.E.M., threw sand on the fire, to do which it was necessary almost to bend over the flames, and saved the building.

Mr. R. B. Jenkins, a mechanical maintenance fitter in a Ministry of Supply factory, single-handed rescued four men from a building which caught fire after an explosion.

*Saturday, April 8th.*

Yesterday, by a special decree of Hitler's, Dr. Goebbels became virtually dictator of Berlin, charged to make order out of the chaos caused by Anglo-American bombing.

In Burma, the Seventeenth Indian Division, which the Japanese planned to encircle and destroy at Tiddim, has reached the plain of Manipur intact, after fighting its way through the Chin Hills for three weeks. Many enemy strong-points were smashed and their defenders killed or scattered. Japanese casualties in this operation were at least 1,300 killed and wounded, whereas the Allied losses were 150 killed.

Moscow celebrated the victories of the First Ukrainian Armies in the Carpathians, which have resulted in their



reaching the Czechoslovak and Rumanian borders along a front of 125 miles, and the advance of the Second Ukrainian Armies to the River Sereth north of Jassy.

This week many of the 16,000,000 British income-taxpayers affected have received the first pay envelopes from which pay-as-you-earn (P.A.Y.E.) tax has been deducted.

*Monday, April 10th.*

The great April air offensive against Hitler's Europe reached a fresh peak of intensity to-day when nearly 2,000 Allied bombers and fighters again swept out from Britain. The day's attacks began soon after daybreak, when 700 American heavy bombers with an escort of equal size, flew out to bomb aircraft factories, aircraft repair depots, airfields and other military targets in France and Belgium. At dusk the almost non-stop day and night assault had been going on for 63 hours, since dawn on Saturday, and thousands of tons of bombs had been dropped by some 5,000 aircraft.

An agreement for immediate military and political co-operation between Yugoslavia and Italy has been signed by Marshal Tito's Foreign Minister, Josip Smolaka, and Marshal Badoglio.

British airborne troops have made a second landing behind the Japanese lines in Burma.

Mr. Cordell Hull, United States Secretary of State, in an historic broadcast speech last night, declared that agreement for common action between the British Commonwealth, the Soviet Union, China and the United States was "a solid framework on which all the future policy of international organisation must be built."

#### THE CAPTURE OF ODESSA

The great Black Sea port and fortress of Odessa—around which the Germans had built tremendous defence lines—has been captured by the Russians only a day after they reached the city's suburbs.

Four hours after this major victory had been announced by Marshal Stalin in an Order of the Day, the Soviet routine communiqué to-night reported that General Tolbukhin's forces of the Fourth Ukrainian Front had launched the long-awaited offensive to clear the enemy from the Crimea, and

broken through powerful defences on the Perekop Isthmus. They advanced 13 miles and captured the town and railway junction of Armyansk and other places. Simultaneously, having forced the Sivash east of Armyansk, the Russians broke through strong defences and emerged on the southern bank of the Sivash, which means that they have got through the bottleneck north of the Crimea and now have room to manoeuvre. In two days' fighting in the Crimea more than 5,500 enemy troops were killed and 44 tanks destroyed. More than 1,000 prisoners were taken and 91 guns captured.

Odessa was in German hands for 905 days. It was evacuated by sea on October 17th, 1941, after Soviet troops had held it as a "Tobruk" for 69 days. Half the Rumanian Army was given the task of conducting the siege, and it lost about 18 divisions as a result. The Russians fell on Odessa like an avalanche in the final stages of the attack, pouring in from the east, north-east and north.

It is now possible to give some account of the terrible sufferings of Odessa during the two and a half years of the Nazi occupation.

The Russians lived in the miles of catacombs under the city, carrying on the fight against the Germans and Rumanians. They lived through a period of killings such as few have experienced. Of the thousands of Jews who lived in Odessa, only 2,000 or 3,000 survived. Some 70,000 were shot, hanged or burned to death. Grim tales were told of children killed by blood transfusions, and of helpless men and women taken to the Black Sea in barges with sealed hatches to be drowned. One of the guerrilla leaders said: "The Germans brought dead Russian children to Odessa by the truckload from Nikolayev. Children have been running through our streets begging to be taken in, saying: 'I won't eat much. I haven't lost any blood.'"

In January, 1943, when the Red Army struck across the Ukraine, systematic resistance was organised within Odessa. Another leader, Anatoly Loschenko, known as "The Major" said:

"We heard that the Germans in their retreat were killing off or deporting the male population. Something had to be done. We started in small groups, which grew to 10,000. We trained our men in the use of arms, not only those hidden in 1941, but German and Rumanian arms, which we obtained by devious ways. Our women were magnificent. By night



we were the real rulers of the city. Our real action began at the end of March, when the German military took over, and 10,000 of us disappeared underground. On April 8th they declared a 3 p.m. curfew. All windows were to be shut and all doors open. Next day, when we heard Russian gunfire, we came into the open and took part in the fighting."

The guerrillas had accumulated stocks of food in the catacombs, built a radio station to get in touch with the Red Army, and set up a printing press. The catacombs contain more than 100 miles of corridors and caves, 80 to 100 feet below the ground. There was electric light, as well as candles and paraffin lamps. Water was obtained from artesian wells. There were fully-equipped hospitals, with beds and linen. The password was changed daily and sentinels were posted at all entrances.

*Tuesday, April 11th.*

R.A.F. Bomber Command again broke all bombing records last night, when more than 900 Lancasters, Halifaxes and Mosquitoes made a massive seven-target attack across France, Belgium and Germany. They dropped well over 3,600 tons of bombs, the heaviest load yet delivered in one operation anywhere in the world, and most of it fell on five great invasion traffic centres in the railway systems of France and Belgium—Tours, Laon, Tergnier, Aulnoye and Ghent. Twenty-two planes failed to return. The tremendous offensive was kept up in daylight to-day, when American bombers blasted a big railway centre at Charleroi, Belgium, and other objectives, while 2,000 planes were thrown against aircraft factories in Central Germany.

In the Crimea the Russians have taken Dzhankoi and Kerch.

*Thursday, April 13th.*

Simferopol, capital and railway centre of the Crimea, and the ports of Feodosia and Eupatoria, have fallen to General Tolbukhin's troops. Twenty-thousand prisoners have been taken in the Crimea.

A powerful relief force has released 10,000 German troops from the trap near Skala, but 26,000 were killed and 7,000 taken prisoner.

Rumania is rumoured to have sent a peace delegation to Moscow.



Daily Telegraph

THE RUSSIAN FRONT, FROM THE CARPATHIANS TO THE CRIMEA

The air offensive from Britain and from the Mediterranean continues without break. The Messerschmitt aircraft factories at Wiener Neustadt in Austria were heavily raided yesterday, Bavarian factories were attacked, and airfields and railways are pounded almost hourly.

The Air Ministry announces that in the four years since the night of April 13th, 1940, more than 500 enemy ships have been sunk or damaged by Bomber Command's 13,000 sea-mining sorties. Probably over a million tons have been sunk. The mines are laid in channels, harbours and waterways, all along the seaboard from the Bay of Biscay to the Gulf of Danzig, in the Baltic, 850 miles from base, and to distant Norwegian waters. Kiel Canal was blocked for several months by a ship laden with iron ore which struck a mine in the canal itself.

A strong protest to the Turkish Government against the continued export of chrome, a vital war material, to Germany has been presented in Ankara by the British Ambassador, Sir Hughe Knatchbull-Hugessen. Anglo-American pressure is being applied to other neutrals to reduce supplies to Germany.

After heavy hand-to-hand fighting British troops have captured from the Japanese a position in the foothills to the north-west of the plain of Imphal, capital of Manipur, near the Indian frontier, said to-day's South-East Asia communiqué. Imphal is still partly besieged but is being amply supplied by air.

### *Sunday, April 16th.*

Bucharest and Ploesti were bombed heavily again yesterday. The Luftwaffe is losing 100 planes a day as the Allied air offensive ranges from the Danube to the English Channel. Last night the Red Air Force bombed Sebastopol.

The Swedish Customs have seized 25,000 German military maps of Sweden which were on their way to Oslo.

Fourteen United States airmen shot down over enemy-occupied territory, four of them during last week's daylight air attacks on Germany, have this week-end arrived in Sweden "after adventures which make the average work of fiction look like a bed-time story."

The Yugoslav National Army of Liberation has destroyed a number of German garrisons and isolated many others.

Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander in South-East Asia, has transferred his Headquarters from Delhi to Ceylon.

*Monday, April 17th.*

As a precaution against leakage of information, the British Government has suspended from midnight to-night all the usual privileges for sending and receiving diplomatic dispatches and couriers to and from this country. This unprecedented measure applies to all diplomatic missions in London and their staffs, with the exception of the Dominions, Russia and the United States. All diplomatic messages are now subject to censorship, including diplomatic bags, usually sealed. The safety of tens of thousands of British and American soldiers depends upon preserving the secrets of the Allies' "Second Front," especially the details of the secret weapons which will be used and the methods that will be adopted.

The question of when the "Second Front," the Allied invasion of Western Europe, will begin, is now being discussed by everyone. Desperate fighting and heavy casualties are expected. The sense of suspense grows. It is as though the whole nation were gathering itself together, like a lion crouching to spring.

*Tuesday, April 18th.*

Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia, was raided by Allied aircraft for the first time yesterday, when railways and factories were bombed. Sofia also was raided. Last night the R.A.F. attacked Cologne. To-day 2,000 American planes bombed Berlin and other targets in Germany, with a loss of nineteen bombers and six fighters. This is Berlin's sixth daylight raid.

Balaclava has fallen and the Russians are closing on Sebastopol. The Germans are counter-attacking on the Polish front.

Major-General W. D. A. Lentaigne has been appointed to succeed Major-General Wingate as commander of the force operating behind the Japanese lines in Burma.

#### HUMAN TORPEDOES

The Royal Navy has been using "human torpedoes" with conspicuous success. In a most daring night operation a

brand-new cruiser was sunk and a large transport seriously damaged by these weapons. This was at Palermo, the strongly defended naval base in Sicily, in January, 1943, and the use of these weapons, like that of the midget submarines against the *Tirpitz* in Alten Fjord, Norway, last September, has been one of the best-kept secrets of the war.

It was announced in the *London Gazette* to-night that the following awards have been made for the Palermo exploit : the D.S.O. to Lieut. Richard Thomas Goodwin Greenland, R.N.V.R., of East Bergholt, Suffolk, and Sub.-Lieut. Rodney George Dove, R.N.V.R., of Wallington, Surrey. The Conspicuous Gallantry Medal to Leading Signalman Alexander Mitchell Ferrier, of Moray, Scotland, and Leading Seaman James Michael Freel, of Barrow-in-Furness, Lancs. Mentioned in Despatches : Petty Officer John Malcolm Miln, of Hindhead, Surrey, and Able Seaman Harold Victor Worthy, of Sunderland.

Lieut. Greenland and Leading Signalman Ferrier, manning one of the "human torpedoes," entered Palermo Harbour and, after traversing nearly the whole length of the harbour and negotiating the net defences, sank the new 3,362-ton cruiser *Ulpio Traiano*. Sub.-Lieut. Dove and Leading Seaman Freel, manning another "human torpedo," seriously damaged the 8,500-ton transport *Viminale*. Petty Officer Miln and Able Seaman Worthy formed the crew of a third "human torpedo" taking part in the operation. All six men reached the shore in safety, and are now prisoners-of-war.

Naval correspondents were later invited by the Admiralty to a northern training base to see these new weapons.

The human torpedo looks like any other torpedo, except that two men sit astride it, and in front of each of them there is a high curved shield. Each man puts on several layers of thick woollen clothing, then the cumbersome 40 lb. diving suit with a weird-looking visor fitting closely over his head. The nose is clipped and in his mouth he carries an oxygen tube. Small oxygen bottles are strapped behind the back. The men can stay in their suits and astride their torpedo for many hours.

The correspondents watched the men, Frankenstein figures, clamber down a ladder on the depôt ship's side and flop into the grey water. Grasping the side of the torpedo they submerged themselves and, unscrewing a valve in the top of their helmets, let out the air in the suits to reduce buoyancy.

Then, lying on their backs like grotesque fish, they placed a leg astride the saddle and slid into position. With a slight swirl of water at the stern of the 21-foot "tin fish," they glided away from the ship. A few minutes were sufficient to adjust the trim of the craft. They slipped quietly below the surface.

"Once they get the trim properly adjusted they can do almost anything with those things," said an officer. "Booms and submarine nets are no obstacle to them."

No. 1 of the crew sits in the first saddle and steers with a rubber-handled joystick, below which is a dashboard of dials of pressure and depth gauges. The dials are luminous and can easily be read under water. The torpedo is electrically operated from batteries. The warhead contains a weight of explosive equal to an ordinary torpedo. It can be detached easily by a handle by No. 1, and No. 2 slides off into the sea to fix it to the bottom of the hull of the victim ship. By a clockwork arrangement in the war-head the charge can be set to go off. It is quick and easy to fix to the ship.

The torpedo has four ahead speeds and one astern, but it is very slow, speed being of no importance, as it is designed purely for attacks on anchored harbour shipping.

If the engines cease to function below the surface, the crew can easily rise. By increasing the flow of oxygen and allowing it to escape through their mouthpiece the helmet becomes inflated, bringing them above water.

They can go down to about 100 feet. The helmsman then steers by compass which, with other luminous dials belonging to the electric motor, is set just forward of his controls.

The men have a very stiff medical examination, and even so about 30 per cent. fail to complete the four and a half months' training. They get extra allowances for being in this service.

The midget submarines, the Royal Navy's other "secret weapon," known as "X" craft, are like ordinary submarines, but much smaller and even more cramped, and have no conning tower. They are manned by a crew of four, three officers and one rating, who attends to the engine-room. They are about 40 feet long. The skipper stands on the open deck, giving orders to his crew through a microphone. The superstructure consists only of a guard rail for the two periscope tubes and a mast-like air vent. To this is attached a steel arm with a strong leather belt, to which the captain

straps himself, when on the deck, for observation purposes. With a deck the bare 2 feet above the surface, he needs his special waterproof suit. A normal-sized man can stand up with comfort at one place inside the hull. Speed, range and armament are secret.

*Wednesday, April 19th.*

A powerful Allied battle fleet, sweeping more than 900 miles into enemy waters, struck a sudden destructive blow at the Japanese sea supply route to Burma at dawn to-day. Bombers from aircraft-carriers heavily bombed airfields at Sabang and Lho Nga, at the northern tip of Sumatra, in the Dutch East Indies, and the sea base at Sabang, while fighter escorts attacked ground targets. Many heavy bombs hit the Sabang docks, power station, barracks, hangars, workshops and radio station. Big fires were caused in the town area. Two Japanese destroyers and an escort vessel were set on fire. Two merchant ships were hit by heavy bombs. A 1,000-lb. bomb blasted an oil tank. All our planes returned safely except one, the pilot of which figured in a remarkable rescue exploit. He was seen to come down in the sea by a British submarine, which at once surfaced. Under the fire of guns from the shore, the airman was picked up by the submarine.

Some 4,000 tons of high explosives, the greatest load ever lifted by a bombing fleet for a single action, were carried across the Channel by R.A.F. Lancasters and Halifaxes last night to smash four "invasion" railway links in France, at Noisy-le-Sec and Juvisy (both on the outskirts of Paris), Rouen and Tergnier. It is probable that the railway facilities in all four areas were completely destroyed. The greatest care was taken to ensure that the bombing was concentrated on the meticulously marked targets.

The onslaught formed part of a series of attacks bringing the Allies' air offensive to a new peak of intensity, in which probably no fewer than 6,000 planes were engaged and at least 8,000 tons of bombs dropped in thirty-six hours on Germany and Occupied Europe.

To-day 2,000 American bombers and fighters attacked Cassel and Hamm.

A few bombs were dropped on London last night and a hospital was hit.

Sebastopol is being bombarded by the Russian Air Force and Black Sea Fleet.

British troops have relieved Kohima, on the Indian border, which had been cut off by the Japanese for a week.

*Thursday, April 20th.*

Hitler is fifty-five years old to-day. On August 23rd, 1939, he said, "I am now fifty years old. I prefer a war now to when I am fifty-five."

*Friday, April 21st.*

All bombing records were surpassed by the R.A.F. last night—Hitler's birthday—when over 1,100 planes unloaded more than 4,500 tons of bombs on war traffic centres at Cologne, La Chapelle near Paris, Lens and Ottignies near Brussels. Mosquitoes raided Berlin. To-day northern France, Bucharest and Ploesti have been raided.

The Russians are repulsing a succession of German attacks near Narva, in Estonia, and south-east of Stanislavov.

All along the Italian front the opposing armies are preparing strenuously and in mass for the next, and perhaps the final, phase. Meanwhile an unnatural calm prevails. The German conservation of shells is most marked. The Luftwaffe seems to have disappeared. The situation at Cassino, which remains the central bastion of the German defence system, is that we still hold Castle Hill and three-quarters of the town.

At Anzio beachhead four German "human torpedoes" and a radio-controlled explosive tank have been captured.

Turkey will supply no more chrome to Germany—a serious loss to Nazi armament production.

For the first time in the history of London's transport, troops were drafted in to man 'buses yesterday, as nearly 1,500 L.P.T.B. drivers and conductors continued their unofficial strike against the new summer schedules. The troops will be on duty until the strikers return to work.

*Sunday, April 23rd.*

At the close of the war's greatest week of the bombing offensive, an important Anglo-American statement issued to-night declared that the assault on the Reich's fighter plane industry is now reaching its climax. The plan to wipe out the Luftwaffe was conceived fifteen months ago. German



Air Force replacements have been reduced far below the danger mark to a mere trickle from the factories. Front-line strength is weary and its serviceability is sagging. They are losing planes faster than they can turn them out.

In New Guinea Allied landings in force have been made at Hollandia, Aitape and Tanahmerah Bay.

In Italy the Americans have attacked south of Cisterna.

Finland has refused the Russian armistice terms.

*Monday, April 24th.*

Hollandia has been occupied. The Japanese are fleeing to the wooded hills ; 60,000 are trapped between Madang and Wewak.

Last night's air targets were Mannheim and Vilvorde : to-day's Friedrichshafen, Munich, Amiens, Dieppe, Bucharest, Ploesti and Belgrade.

*Wednesday, April 26th.*

Australian troops have captured the Japanese base and airfield at Madang, New Guinea.

Sir John Anderson presented what he termed "a mixture as before" Budget in the House of Commons to-day. For the first time in ten years the Budget contained no increases in taxation and was the first for sixty years to make no major changes at all. Excess Profit Tax remains at 100 per cent. The National revenue for 1944-45 is estimated at £3,098,000,000 and expenditure at £5,937,399,000.

A German communiqué announces that Hitler and Mussolini met on Saturday and Sunday to discuss "political, military and economic problems." Field-Marshal Rommel, Hitler's anti-invasion commander, has inspected rear areas of western defences.

There are extensive German troop movements in Denmark, probably due to the increasing Danish sabotage and general resistance.

More than 500,000 Germans were killed or captured on the southern front in Russia—not including the Crimea—during the battles of March and April alone, it was stated last night in a broadcast from Moscow. The Red Army had recaptured four-fifths of occupied Soviet soil ; covered from 500 to 1,200 miles from the summer of 1943 to April 15th, 1944 ; liberated an area of more than 300,000 square miles (nearly

four times that of Great Britain) during the same period ; recaptured 370 towns and more than 65,000 inhabited places.

*Friday, April 28th.*

Hourly the air offensive continues. Last night's targets were the aircraft works by the Lake of Constance. Watchers in Switzerland saw many hundreds of R.A.F. bombers transform the whole of the Friedrichshafen district on the German shore of the Lake into a gigantic sea of fire. A second huge stretch of flames destroyed the Dornier works at Manzell, near by, which had escaped serious damage in previous attacks. More great conflagrations could be seen at the neighbouring towns of Immenstadt and, further inland from the lake, Ravensburg. There were a dozen big fires outside Friedrichshafen. Many who witnessed the bombardment believe that this radio-location, aircraft and engine-making centre has almost ceased to exist.

#### ADVENTURE IN CRETE

A patrol of British officers carried out a remarkable raid on Crete last night, which was revealed later.

They had planned to capture a German divisional commander, General Heinrich Kreipe. They waited for him on the road leading to his H.Q. a few miles south of Heraklion. As the General's car approached they waved their red traffic light and the car came to a standstill. The officers opened the door and told the commander he must consider himself a British prisoner-of-war.

Losing no time, they bundled the driver from his seat, which was taken by a British officer, and covering both the General and the driver with automatic weapons, the officers drove through the large town of Heraklion without hindrance. The two pennants of the commander's car ensured a safe crossing through twenty-two military posts. Some 30 miles outside the town, the car was abandoned, and the party embarked in a British ship.

In the car the patrol left a sealed letter, addressed to the German authorities in Crete, which said : " Gentlemen—Your divisional commander, Kreipe, was captured a short time ago by a British raiding force under our command. By the time you read this he and we will be on our way to Cairo. We would like to point out most emphatically that this operation has been carried out without the help of Cretans

or Cretan Partisans, and the only guides used were serving soldiers of his Hellenic Majesty's forces in the Middle East, who came with us. Your general is an honourable prisoner-of-war, and will be treated with all the consideration due to his rank. Any reprisals against the local population will be wholly unwarranted and unjust.

"Auf Baldiges Wiedersehen (see you soon)—Signed—Major, Commanding Raiding Forces, and—Captain, Coldstream Guards.

"P.S.—We are very sorry to leave this motor-car behind."

Kreipe said later: "This puts me in a very difficult position. I have lost my job and have no responsibilities left. This is going to be a great strain for me."

*Saturday, April 29th.*

Berlin was raided to-day by 2,000 American and British planes, and the Air Ministry was among the many targets which received direct hits. Eighty-eight German planes were shot down; sixty-three Allied bombers, and fourteen fighters are missing.

#### CHANNEL ENCOUNTER

The fifth naval encounter in the English Channel this week took place this morning, off Ushant, when two enemy destroyers were met by two Royal Canadian destroyers, H.M.C.S. *Athabaskan* (Lt.-Commander J. H. Stubbs, D.S.O., R.C.N.), and H.M.C.S. *Haida* (Commander H. G. de Wolfe, R.C.N.).

As soon as the Canadian destroyers opened fire the enemy made smoke and fled, firing as they went. The *Athabaskan* received a hit forward and flames rose beside the bridge. Disregarding the hit, she steamed on, maintaining her fire from the after armament, but another hit crashed into her near the after canopy and she was slowed down. A few minutes later an enemy torpedo smashed into her stern, almost severing it from the ship.

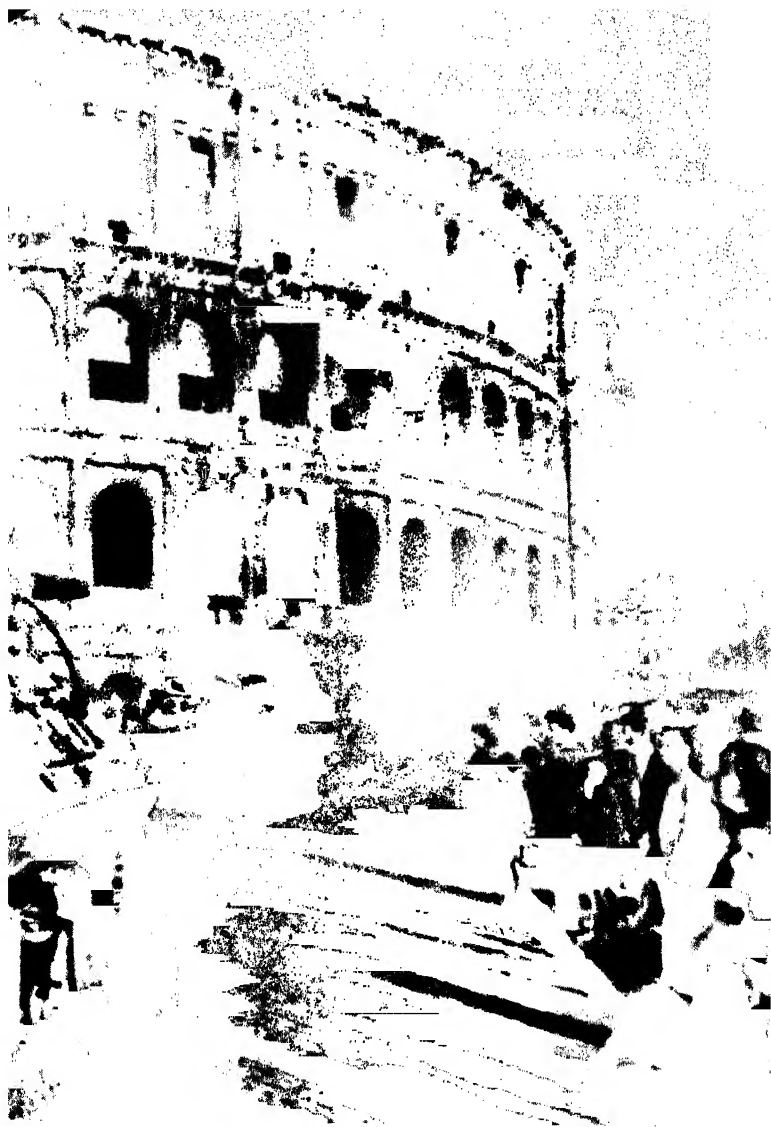
The *Haida* laid a smoke-screen to protect the damaged ship and continued the battle. Hits were observed on both enemy ships, a small fire breaking out on the leading one and a larger fire on the second. Concentrating on the nearest target, the *Haida* struck her with salvo after salvo until the enemy drove ashore out of control. She then opened fire on her consort under the impression that she was British.



WHAT WAS LEFT OF CASSINO MONASTERY

An arresting picture of the Cassino Abbey and Monastery Hill taken from the air after their capture by Allied troops.

*(Crown Copyright Reserved)*



#### THE ALLIES ENTER ROME

Colosseum of Rome provides a majestic background for units of the liberating Fifth Army cheered on their way by welcoming Italians.

*(Photo : Planet News)*

The *Athabaskan* sank within a few minutes of being torpedoed. Steaming back to where the lights of the new life-jackets indicated survivors, Commander de Wolfe ordered the *Haida's* engines to be stopped, while Carley floats, life-rafts and scramble nets were flung overboard. The *Haida* proceeded to pick up every survivor within reach. Commander de Wolfe ordered boats to be lowered without crews so that survivors on the oil-covered sea could paddle to them. Some of the motor-boat's crew went with their boat, and picked up survivors who had been unable to swim towards the destroyer. The Germans later reported eighty-five other survivors as prisoners-of-wars.

The Admiralty stated that the next-of-kin of casualties are being informed as soon as possible. There were no casualties in the *Haida*.

Bomb-carrying Typhoons, of the Air Defence of Great Britain and the Allied Expeditionary Air Force, flew out across the Channel to carry on the action against the helpless German destroyer. Several hits were scored by the pilots who were escorted by formations of R.A.F. Spitfires and Seafires of the Royal Navy.

Flight-Lieut. Lawrence W. Stark, a twenty-four-year-old pilot from Bolton, flying with the Argentine Bellows Club Squadron, said : " We went in over Morlaix and saw the destroyer beached in the shallows, lying on her side, in clear water about a quarter of a mile off shore. I did not get a good bombing line on my first run, so I pulled out, went round again, and dived down about 4,500 feet to score two clean hits. It was an easy run, in good weather, and we encountered only very little flak as we bombed. No aircraft was lost in the attack.

## MAY 1944

*Monday, May 1st.*

Allied air forces in Britain opened the new month by sending out great fleets totalling well over 3,300 planes between sunrise and sunset to-day to continue pounding key railway centres and German military installations in France and Belgium. Only one aircraft was missing from the whole day's operations. Fighters and fighter-bombers, estimated at

750 strong, roamed the skies over France, Belgium and western areas of the Reich without the Luftwaffe putting up any opposition until evening. Then, shortly before eight o'clock, the German radio reported violent battles over the Saar and other districts in south-western Germany with American bomber groups. The day's intensive operations came soon after three heavy night attacks by R.A.F. Bomber Command. A vast ammunition dump 40 miles from Paris was blown up in a succession of enormous explosions, and two key railway yards in Northern France were given a concentrated battering.

During April the British and American Air Forces dropped 83,400 tons of bombs on the enemy.

Prime Ministers of the British Commonwealth met at 10, Downing Street to-day with Mr. Churchill in the chair, to discuss the conduct of the war and Commonwealth affairs.

Nine British submarines, operating along the Mediterranean coast of France and in the Ægean, have recently sunk twenty-two enemy supply ships and damaged seven others, said an Admiralty communiqué to-night.

The number of U-boats sunk last month exceeded the number of merchantmen sunk by U-boats.

### A STALAG IN LONDON

Jackboots in the Mall, barbed wire and bayonets in St. James's—these two hard facts, writes Alan Dick, brought home the realism of a war prisoner's life of guarded monotony to the crowds which gathered in the grounds of Clarence House to-day, to hear the Duke of Gloucester open the *Daily Telegraph* Prisoners-of-War Exhibition, which was organised with the help of the Red Cross and St. John War Organisation.

For half an hour, under May skies and surrounded by the throb of a free city, men and women of the Services and men and women of the war organisation at home met in the replica forecourt of a German prison camp to express their sympathy with the men who suffer behind wire.

A Nazi look-out post glowered down upon them. Nazi guards in steel-grey uniform paced every exit. Drab huts formed a rectangle of unrelieved monotony around them.

But behind the barbed wire, behind the look-out post and behind the bayonets was evidence of how the spirit of British

prisoners-of-war has conquered the turgid Nazi régime. The evidence was inside the huts, in the things which those imprisoned hands have made, the pictures painted, the scale models of machinery, the regimental crests embroidered, moulded or carved in every kind of material, the stage settings for elaborate dramatic performances. Even more impressive is the list of examination results. It is a matter of national pride that so many young men should have conquered circumstance and continued their education in captivity.

*Tuesday, May 2nd.*

The great Japanese naval base at Truk was bombed by American carrier-based aircraft, and 120 enemy planes were destroyed. Panape and Satawan were bombed and shelled.

Last night the R.A.F. bombed industrial targets at Lyons, Tours, Toulouse and railways at Chambly, Malmes and St. Ghislain. The Red Air Force bombed Lvov.

Mr. Eden announced that by agreement with Britain and U.S.A., Spain would reduce supplies of wolfram to Germany and expel German agents from Tangier. Deliveries of petroleum to Spain were to be resumed.

A military mission from Marshal Tito arrived in London.

*Thursday, May 4th.*

R.A.F. Bomber Command last night destroyed a great concentration of tanks and lorries at Maily which reconnaissance had discovered—evidently part of the German anti-invasion plans. One of the fiercest air battles of the war was fought over the target. Ludwigshafen and Bucharest and other targets were bombed.

On the Arakan front the Japanese have been driven, after desperate fighting, from all high ground overlooking the Maungdaw-Buthidaung road.

Of the German Army's 300 operative divisions, 100 to-day guard the Atlantic seaboard against Allied invasion, writes Ossian Gouling, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent in Stockholm. The modern German division at full strength numbers 11,000 effectives, so that the enemy's maximum strength in the West is 1,100,000 men. A dramatic decision, made at the request of Rommel, the anti-invasion chief, to switch fifty crack divisions from Russia to meet the threatened Allied assault, has left little more than 1,750,000 men to stem the spring tide of the Red Army's advance. This is the



biggest military gamble the Nazis have ever made. Nine divisions idle nervously in the arctic wastes of northern Finland under Colonel-General Dietl. The remaining forty-one are grouped on the Mediterranean shores, war-weary, home-sick, but still tough, alert, and ready to fight to the death.

Six Mosquitoes of the Second Tactical Air Force, making one of the most brilliant low-level precision attacks of the war, have destroyed a single house in the centre of The Hague, the Air Ministry revealed last night. The house, a 90 foot building of five storeys, with its store of "many thousands of documents of paramount importance to the enemy," was demolished. The only bombs to miss the mark went through the gap where the house had stood—and hit the German barracks just behind the house.

*Saturday, May 6th.*

British, American and Russian air force targets included railway yards in Rumania, Italy and northern France; Sebastopol; and Guam in the central Pacific.

The Pescara dam, behind the German line in the Adriatic sector, was destroyed yesterday by R.A.F. bombers, causing extensive floods.

The British are attacking all along the Kohima front.

The Russians have sunk many transports evacuating German troops from Sebastopol.

Mr. Gandhi was released from prison to-day on medical grounds.

There is much discussion of the "Portal house" (named after Lord Portal, Minister of Works), the pre-fabricated steel house which has been erected in London for inspection. The cost will be about £550, including much equipment, and when production is in full swing 2,500 will be built every week.

#### THE HEROES OF FRANCE

The heroes of France are men without medals, writes Virginia Cowles, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent in Algiers. Although their clothes are shabby and their shoes unpolished, their deeds are as daring and romantic as those of the Scarlet Pimpernels of another age, and will, one day, become a proud legend. For nearly four years they have

lived a hunted, hand-to-mouth existence, carrying on the work of resistance under the threat of a Gestapo which metes out death as the most merciful of its punishments.

During the past few months nearly forty of these men have arrived in Algiers to serve as delegates in the French Assembly. Some of them left France in a group and you hear them describe how 500 underground soldiers with tommy-guns stood in the darkness guarding their point of departure. Others came out alone, walking across Spain. The most recent arrivals tell you that they still stop instinctively in front of shop windows to catch the reflection of those behind them. They say the most difficult thing of all is to learn how to sleep again.

#### CAPTAIN RANDLE, V.C.

For his gallantry at Kohima on May 4th to 6th, the Victoria Cross was later awarded posthumously to Lieut. (Temp. Captain) John Niel Randle, the Royal Norfolk Regiment.

On May 4th at Kohima, near the Indo-Burmese frontier, a battalion attacked Japanese positions on a ridge. When the company commander was severely wounded Captain Randle took over command of the company leading the attack. His handling of a difficult situation in the face of heavy fire was masterly, the citation said. Although wounded in the knee by grenade splinters, he continued to inspire his men by his initiative, courage and outstanding leadership, until the company had captured its objective and consolidated its position. He then went forward and brought in all the wounded men who were lying outside the perimeter.

In spite of his painful wound, Captain Randle refused to be evacuated. He insisted on carrying out a personal reconnaissance with great daring in bright moonlight before a further attack by his company on the positions to which the enemy had withdrawn.

At dawn on May 6th the attack opened, led by Captain Randle. One of the platoons reached the crest of the hill held by the Japanese. Another ran into heavy machine-gun fire from a bunker on the reverse slope. Captain Randle immediately appreciated that this particular bunker covered not only the rear of his new position, but also the line of communication of the battalion. Therefore, its destruction was imperative if the operation was to succeed.

With utter disregard of the obvious danger to himself

Captain Randle charged the machine-gun post single-handed with rifle and bayonet. Although mortally wounded by numerous bursts of machine-gun fire, he reached the bunker. He silenced the gun with a grenade thrown through the bunker slit. Then he flung his body across the slit, so that the aperture should be completely sealed.

His bravery could not have been surpassed, the citation added. By his self-sacrifice he saved the lives of many of his men. He enabled not only his own company but the whole battalion to gain its objective and win a decisive victory.

Captain Randle leaves a wife and a baby son. When called up about a month before the war he had not long left Merton College, Oxford.

*Monday, May 8th.*

Yesterday and to-day Berlin has been heavily raided. The destruction of the enemy's railway systems continues.

Buthidaung has been evacuated by the Allies. The Japanese have launched an offensive in the Manipur Hills.

*Tuesday, May 9th.*

A special Order of the Day by Marshal Stalin to-night announced the capture of the great Crimean base of Sebastopol. The whole of the Crimea has thus been freed from the Germans.

The Japanese have captured Lushan, cutting the last section of the Peiping-Hankow railway held by the Chinese.

To-day 4,000 aircraft attacked railway yards and airfields in France, Belgium and Luxembourg.

*Wednesday, May 10th.*

The round-the-clock air offensive against the "Invasion Coast" of Northern France continued without pause for the twenty-third day yesterday. Simultaneously American heavy bombers struck from Italy against the dwindling resources of the German aircraft industry. Fighting their way across the Alps the big bombers reached the vital aircraft factories at Wiener Neustadt, 27 miles south of Vienna, and bombed in face of intense flak.

Mr. Churchill stated in the House of Commons that between October 1st, 1941, and March 31st, 1944, Britain sent to Russia 5,031 tanks, 6,778 aircraft (including 2,672 from U.S.A.) and over £80,000,000 worth of raw material, food, medical supplies, machinery, etc.

*Thursday, May 11th.*

The Allied armies in Italy late to-night began an all-out offensive against the Germans' Gustav Line. It is "going well," with several primary objects already achieved. The main thrust is in the Cassino sector, where the Eighth Army, secretly switched from the Adriatic area, is attacking. Already it has pushed across the Rapido river on an 8 mile front, and has advanced 2 miles across the Garigliano. British, French and Polish troops are engaged. The Germans are resisting desperately.

The R.A.F. bombed railway centres at Courtrai, Ghent, Lens and Lille last night. The American Eighth A.A.F. bombed Belfort to-day.

General Alexander, Allied C.-in-C., Italy, in an Order of the Day to his troops said : "Throughout the past winter you have fought hard and valiantly and killed many Germans. Perhaps you are disappointed that we have been unable to advance faster and farther, but I, and those who know, realise full well how magnificently you fought among these almost unsurmountable obstacles of rocky, trackless mountains, deep snow and in valleys blocked by rivers and mud against a stubborn foe. The results of these past months may not appear spectacular, but you have drawn into Italy and mauled many of the enemy's best divisions, which he badly needed to stem the advance of the Russian armies in the East. . . .

"To-day the bad times are behind us, and to-morrow we can see victory ahead. Under the ever-increasing blows of the Air Forces of the United Nations, which are mounting every day in intensity, the German war machine is beginning to crumble. The Allied armed forces are now assembling for the final battles on sea, on land and in the air, to crush the enemy once and for all. From east and west, from north and south, blows are about to fall which will result in the final destruction of the Nazis and bring freedom once again to Europe and hasten peace for us all. To us in Italy has been given the honour to strike the first blow."

*Saturday, May 13th.*

The offensive in Italy is going well. The Garigliano river has been crossed, San Angelo, Castelforte and Mount Faito have been captured.

Yesterday the American Eighth Army Air Force struck at

synthetic oil plants near Leipzig and at Brux on the Czech border ; 150 enemy fighters were shot down. To-day they bombed Tutow, on the Baltic, and Poolitz : and to-day 3,000 planes attacked " pre-invasion " targets in France and Belgium.

The Chinese have recaptured Suiping, breaking the Japanese hold on the Peiping-Hankow railway.

*Monday, May 15th.*

French troops have broken through the Gustav Line and captured Ausonia and other villages.

In raids on the south and south-west coasts of England last night, fifteen German planes were destroyed. Damage and casualties were light.

Over 20,000 Chinese troops have crossed the Salween River on a 130-mile front north and south of the old Burma road, in a drive to join the Allied forces in Upper Burma, which is part of a great plan to encircle the Japanese key base of Myitkyina, the railhead on the Irrawaddy.

The Air Ministry announced last night that a new trans-atlantic record has been set up by a Canadian-built Mosquito, piloted by Wing Commander J. de L. Wooldridge, D.S.O., D.F.C. and bar, D.F.M., which made the crossing of over 2,200 miles from Labrador to Britain in six hours forty-six minutes.

*Wednesday, May 17th.*

The Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth, whose conference ended yesterday, have issued a statement that they have agreed cordially on colonial and foreign policy and that after the war a world organisation to maintain peace should be set up.

American forces have made fresh landings in New Guinea, at Arara and on Wakde and Insoemanai Islands.

Sourabaya has been bombed again by carrier-borne aircraft, ten ships being sunk and much damage done.

The British railways announced yesterday that any passenger services might be cancelled without warning : one more indication that the " Second Front " is imminent.

*Thursday, May 18th.*

Cassino, the last fortress of the Gustav Line, was stormed by the Eighth Army to-day. After seven days' fighting the

Gustav Line south of the Apennines has ceased to exist. More than 1,500 men of the crack 4th Parachute Regiment were taken prisoner in Cassino. Many more Germans were killed. Great quantities of stores and equipment were captured.

The Eighth and Fifth Armies have joined forces. The spearheads are 5 miles east of the main Hitler Line defences. British, Canadian, New Zealand, Indian and French troops are advancing against fierce resistance. French troops have stormed Esperia, the important road junction at the head of a valley running down to Pontecorvo, one of the chief German strongpoints. The 2,500 ft. peak of Mt. Doro, dominating the valley, is in French hands. American troops, pressing on along the Appian Way, have captured the important port of Formia, and begun to shell the town of Gaeta.

Will this success in Italy be the signal for the "Second Front"?

*Friday, May 19th.*

Intense feeling has been roused by Mr. Eden's statement in the House of Commons to-day that forty-seven officers of British and Allied Air Forces have been shot after escaping from Stalag Luft 3. The Nazis allege that they were shot while resisting arrest or while making a fresh attempt to escape.

Berlin and Brunswick were bombed to-day; 125 enemy planes were shot down.

Field-Marshal Rundstedt commands German anti-invasion forces, with Field-Marshal Rommel and Blaskowitz under him.

*Sunday, May 21st.*

The great offensive in Italy continues to go well. Gaeta, Itri and Fondi have been captured. But German resistance is stiffening.

Flying straight and level for two and a half miles above the Adolf Hitler Line in Italy, a South African Spitfire reconnaissance pilot made a complete photographic mosaic of the German defence system in the central sector the day before the Allied offensive began, stated the Air Ministry to-night.

In the war's biggest attack of its kind, about 1,500 planes from Britain to-day blasted the Nazis' strained and battered system of rail, road, river and canal communications through-

out Northern Germany, France, Belgium and Holland. In one widespread series of attacks from North Sea to well east of Berlin 200 locomotives were shot up. In another sweep from Brest to Coblenz over seventy locomotives were destroyed. In a third over occupied Western Europe at least thirty-five military supply trains and thirty-three locomotives were hit.

Yesterday General Eisenhower issued his first orders to the "underground" armies in German-occupied countries.

American and Chinese troops now hold a third of the Japanese supply base of Myitkyina.

*Tuesday, May 23rd.*

At dawn to-day the Eighth Army attacked the Adolf Hitler Line on a front between Pontecorvo and Aquino. By noon the first objectives had been taken and the Aquino-Pontecorvo road had been crossed. The assault was led by tanks after an hour-long barrage by several hundred massed guns brought forward in the last few days. German resistance was stiffer than ever, and the biggest tank battle of this campaign developed. Many of the Germans' self-propelled anti-tank guns went into action and some of their anti-tank ditches were found to be 200 feet wide and 8 feet deep—and mined into the bargain. The Poles and the British have fought their way into Piedimonte. The French and Canadians are closing in on Pico. The Americans have captured three peaks between Terracina and Fondi. The Anzio forces have begun an offensive.

Yesterday the naval base at Kiel was bombed. Last night the R.A.F. dropped over 3,000 tons of explosives on Dortmund, Brunswick and other targets. To-day American heavy bombers, escorted by over 1,000 fighters, raided France and western Germany.

The Chinese have captured Chefang, on the Burma Road.

*Wednesday, May 24th.*

The Hitler Line has been broken in the centre. Massed British and Canadian tanks are streaming through a gap 2,500 yards wide between Pontecorvo and Aquino into the Liri Valley. Thus, after twenty-four hours of battle, the offensives by the Canadian Corps and the beachhead forces have yielded brilliant, perhaps decisive, results. Terracina,

the Mediterranean end of the Line, has fallen to the Fifth Army.

Mr. Churchill announced to a thronged and attentive House of Commons to-day that after the war the victorious Allies would form an armed world council. It would prevent war "at least in the time of our children and grand-children." If there have been any thoughts that Britain might deal softly with her foes, the Prime Minister swept them aside. "The miscreants who set out to subjugate first Europe and then the world must be punished."

*Thursday, May 25th.*

The uniting of the two Allied fronts in Italy was completed at 7.30 this morning, when an American combat engineer from the Anzio Beach-head clasped the hand of another from the Fifth Army. The meeting place was near Borgo Grappa, 5 miles east of the old beachhead front on the Mussolini Canal. Members of a Fifth Army reconnaissance squad swarming over the meadows came upon American engineers and British armoured-car scouts, who had started from the Canal after dawn. Both sides agree that it was the engineers, going on ahead to remove mines, who shook hands first.

Cisterna, Littoria, Aquino, Sezze and Piedimonte have been captured. Since the offensive began over 10,000 prisoners have been taken. The troops have had powerful support from the air and the sea. The Allied line is now at its nearest point 25 miles from Rome.

German parachutists and glider-borne infantry captured the Headquarters in Bosnia, of Marshal Tito, leader of the Yugoslav Army of Liberation, but he escaped to the mountains together with Captain Randolph Churchill, the Prime Minister's son.

#### THE GREEN HOWARDS AT ANZIO

Two companies of the Green Howards, who took a system of German machine-gun positions in a savage fight across the Moletta River at dawn on Tuesday, held them for thirty hours, writes David Brown from Allied H.Q. They provided a diversion on the coastal flank for the main break-out from the beachhead.

Starting at 4 a.m., the Howards found that gaps in the minefields were not complete, because the sappers had been mown down by German fire. Only two ladders had been



placed in position for scaling the abrupt river banks instead of the expected six.

The Howards, carrying the remaining four ladders, advanced through the minefields regardless of casualties from mines or machine-guns. Then came the order : " In with bayonets." Shouting " Up the Green Howards," they charged.

The charge over the last 30 yards was against a strongly fortified position held by crack German paratroops. These were driven out with grenades.

Two platoons took the objectives and one, greatly depleted in strength, pushed on to capture a gun post directly on the coast. A platoon commander, wounded five times, personally led the attack with a tommy-gun, taking the position in a ninety-minute battle.

In one engagement, Lieut. B. Pyrie, of Glenbuck by Cumnock, Ayrshire, though wounded in the foot, continued to lead the fight for four hours before asking for a half-hour's relief to have his wound dressed.

In a later engagement the Howards were attacked from front and rear by paratroops. Sweeping down through the dusk in overwhelming numbers, they overran the coastal platoon and bore down on the thin straight line of the Howards holding the dunes. Aided by the light of a blazing tank which hurled exploding ammunition overhead, the Howards fired point-blank into the charging Germans. The attack was held and smashed. One captured paratrooper said to the Howards : " Your men come in shouting and laughing to attack us. What can one do with men like these ? "

#### *Saturday, May 27th.*

Fifth Army troops, over-running the German strongpoint of Cisterna and smashing forward through the Lepini Mountains, last night captured Cori. To-day the advance has continued along the whole 50 mile front from the Liri Valley to Vallettri, in the Alban Hills, which is the key to the last German defence line before Rome. The King has sent his congratulations to General Sir Harold Alexander, C.-in-C., and the forces under him.

It is announced to-day that for nearly a year R.A.F. Hurricanes, Beaufighters, Typhoons and Swordfish, and some American aircraft, have been equipped with rocket projectiles, which have been used with great success against shipping, U-boats and land targets.

The Government yesterday produced an outline of its plans for ensuring full and steady employment and avoiding slumps and booms after the war. The chief proposals are : a big drive to revive and maintain the export trade ; variation in taxation rates to even up expenditure in good and in lean years ; planning of expenditure on public works to concentrate it on periods when private expenditure falls ; concerted action between the Treasury and the banks to settle credit policy ; an "economic general staff" to keep the Government informed of changes in world trade conditions.

*Sunday, May 28th.*

There is fierce fighting along the Italian front, especially in the Liri Valley. The Eighth Army has taken Ceprano.

Last night over 1,000 R.A.F. bombers attacked depots and railways in Belgium and France. To-day tremendous air blows were dealt at enemy targets from central Germany to northern France in operations in which almost all types of Allied aircraft were used. Up to 4,000 sorties were flown during the day, including the "removal" by rocket-firing Typhoons of a building in Northern France used as a German military H.Q. The Americans lost thirty-four bombers and thirteen fighters. Special attention is being paid to radio-location stations in northern France—another preliminary to invasion.

To-night 638 prisoners of war, repatriated from Germany, were landed at Liverpool.

General MacArthur said to-day that, for strategic purposes, the landing of Allied troops on Biak Islands yesterday marks the end of the New Guinea campaign.

#### MARAUDERS OVER FRANCE

"Queen Anne the Second" this morning completed her seventy-fifth mission, writes Cornelius Ryan, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent, from a United States Ninth Air Force base. She is a heavily-armoured Marauder, and this morning she dropped more than two tons of bombs on the target area, a four-span bridge not more than 20 feet wide.

I flew with her. At 8.45 a.m. we synchronised our watches in the briefing-room, and the briefing had begun.

A large map covered the whole of one wall and a red

streamer ran from our position at the base here to the target. "That," said Col. Nye, the commanding officer of the group, pointing to the target, "is a four-span bridge about 120 feet long, and, gentlemen, your target is small. It must be destroyed."

The route was traced inch by inch across the map ; everything was meticulously explained ; nothing was left to chance. The lights were extinguished in the briefing-room, which rather resembled a theatre, a screen was lowered, and a photograph of the actual target was projected on to it. There everything was shown in exact detail. So striking was this method, and so lucid were the explanations, that even I had no trouble many hours later in recognising the target.

Intelligence, navigational, meteorological and bombardiering officers followed one another in succession on to the rostrum before the wall map and explained the various problems one by one. We were finally addressed once more by Col. Nye, who impressed upon the crews the importance of hitting the target only, thus avoiding any loss of life among the French population.

I was introduced to the pilot and crew I was to accompany on the mission ; then I went with an intelligence officer to the parachute room to pick up my equipment. Here I was fitted with a harness and parachute and a "Mae West" life preserver.

My next step was to hand in all personal papers, letters and other documents which might divulge information to the enemy in the event of the plane I was in being shot down. My papers were taken and secured in a canvas bag, and in return I received a ration of chocolate and chewing gum. My guide then took me to another supply store, where I was issued with a flying helmet, flying suit, shrapnel helmet and a pair of high-power binoculars. We then left for "Queen Anne II."

A few minutes later we were in the air and joining our formation. One flight had already taken off, and we were the second, and followed some miles behind. We flew on the left, or port, side of our leader, whose plane bore the name of "Annie Laurie," and on his starboard side flew the plane "Idiot's Delight." Our crew consisted of pilot, co-pilot, bombardier-navigator, radio-gunner, engineer-gunner, turret-gunner, and myself, making a total of seven. Each of us wore a throat microphone and headphones, and in this

manner spoke and heard one another through the plane inter-communication system. The pilot, Lieut. P. Godwin, showed me over the plane and its armaments. It has two machine-guns in the front turret, two on each side of the pilot's cockpit, fired by the pilot, a powered twin-gun top turret, a twin-gun, tail turret, and two heavy machine-guns firing downwards from the waist. There are so many guns on a B.26 Marauder that space is greatly restricted.

We flew over London, and gradually the quiet folds of the English countryside receded and we were over the Channel. Below us the water was perfectly calm and I could see the white wash of several small ships, which through my glasses looked like corvettes.

Then above us for the first time I noticed our Spitfire escorts weaving back and forth, like sheep-dogs watching their flock.

We gradually neared the French coast, and through the intercom. came the order to "Don flak suits" and helmets. The "flak" suits and helmets are so heavy and bulky that I could hardly move about the plane's interior.

Then we arrived over the French coast. Here we nearly had to queue up to get in. Spitfires, Thunderbolts, Havocs and Marauders were coming and going with impunity. I examined many miles of the French coastline through my glasses. No sign of life was apparent; everything seemed completely desolate and deserted.

Away in the distance a vast column of smoke swept for many miles into the sky. Through my glasses it looked like a forest on fire—probably from previous bombing raids. Down below I suddenly saw Spitfires escorting to safety two Havoc light bombers returning on one engine each.

"Flak in front," said the co-pilot. I looked ahead. The German ack-ack batteries had opened up on our first flight. Then they opened up on us. "Flak behind," said the tail gunner. For a brief few moments, which to me seemed like hours, I saw the black ugly puffs of death-dealing shrapnel coming too close for comfort. Nothing hit us; so far we were safe—but we had a long way to go.

Below us a river twisted backwards and forwards, and to the left I noticed another vast column of smoke circling to the sky. Then we passed over a French town; the pilot reported some movement of people, but our speed made it impossible for me to examine it through my glasses. Then

directly ahead I saw the target. From our height it was just a mere speck. Gradually it became clearer. Through my binoculars I could see it plainly. In the middle of this stretch of the river small islands dotted the river. At the end of these was this graceful four-span bridge.

The first flight of bombers went in. Down went their bombs, spiralling slowly. Then after what seemed an incredibly long time they exploded, and the target area was filled with clouds of smoke as debris shot high in the air.

Then we began our bombing run. I stood at the open door which divides the bomb bay from the wireless cabin. The bomb doors opened. Suddenly, with a click no louder than that of an electric light switch, our two tons of destruction had gone. I watched them as they sailed into space, rapidly becoming smaller. Then the bomb bay doors silently closed. We had hit the target area. We turned for home.

I looked back and the whole of the target area was one mass of smoke. We quickly passed over the brown and green mosaic of the French countryside without seeing any further flak, and soon we approached the Channel. Throughout the whole of the mission we had not seen one enemy fighter. We crossed the Channel, and soon the English coast appeared. To me it was a very wonderful sight. We removed our heavy equipment and ate our chocolate ration. The radio operator switched us on to the Forces' programme.

We landed shortly before 3 p.m. and were interrogated with the other crews. As we left the briefing-room I noticed a sign outside which said : " There are only two kinds of combat forces—mobile or defeated." I understand this now, because less than two hours later the crews were being briefed again for another mission.

*Tuesday, May 30th.*

The battle for Rome has begun. There is fierce fighting on the slopes of the Alban Hills, the last great German defensive position before the capital.

To-day nearly 3,000 planes from Britain and Italy attacked targets in Germany, Austria, Belgium and France.

General Stilwell's Chinese and American forces have cut the main road between Kamaing and Mogaung. This counters the temporary setback caused by the withdrawal of the Chindit force south-west of Mogaung, announced yesterday.



BEACHHEAD IN NORMANDY  
This graphic scene on an invasion beach shows the extent to which the operations were free from enemy interference by land, sea and air, and gives an impression of the complexity of the landing.

(Photo: I.N.A.)



#### GLIDER TROOPS TAKE COVER

Glider troops, who were among the first air-borne troops to land in France, take cover. They held important bridges until Special Service troops linked up with them and consolidated positions.

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## JUNE 1944

*Thursday, June 1st.*

During May, 150,000 tons of bombs were dropped on the enemy during more than 150,000 sorties by the four great air commands—R.A.F. Bomber Command, the United States Strategic Air Force based in England and in Italy, the Allied Expeditionary Air Force and the Mediterranean Allied Air Command. Bomber Command dropped 37,000 tons—over 100 tons for every bomber lost.

Allied troops who stormed Mt. Artemisio, in the Alban Hills, were last night in sight of Rome. Frosinone and Sora have been captured.

*Saturday, June 3rd.*

Velletri and Valmontone, twin bastions which guarded the two main approaches to Rome along Highway 7 (the Appian Way), and Highway 6 were captured yesterday.

As the battlefield approached to within a dozen miles of Rome the Pope yesterday broadcast on the conditions necessary to maintain world peace, and appealed again to the belligerents to spare the Holy City. "Whoever dares to raise a hand against Rome will be guilty of matricide in the eyes of the civilised world," he said.

The last German line of defence before Rome has been broken—Americans of the Fifth Army and Canadians of the Eighth have linked up between Ferentino and Valmontone. Lanuvio on Highway 7 and Rocca di Pappa on Lake Albano have been occupied.

The Allied air offensive against Hitler's "Western Wall," the Atlantic coast defences, continues with growing intensity: 5,000 tons of bombs have been dropped on them in the past thirty-six hours.

The dominant question in all men's minds is, "When will the Allies invade?"

*Sunday, June 4th.*

### THE FALL OF ROME

Rome has fallen to the Fifth Army, the first European capital to be liberated.



Church bells were ringing throughout the city when the first spearheads of the Fifth Army reached the suburbs at 6.40 a.m. yesterday. They provided a background to the rattle of machine-guns and rifles and the heavy explosions of mortar bombs and anti-tank shells as the German rearguards continued their delaying actions.

As the first jeeps and tanks moved cautiously into the streets where Highway Six enters Rome, people began to come up out of their cellars. They were nervous at first, but soon became bolder and began to shower the troops with roses and to press wine on them.

The advance was halted to give the Germans a chance to withdraw from the outskirts of the city, and at 11 a.m. Allied artillery began to shell the enemy tanks and anti-tank guns. Heavy fighting continued all day, but by dusk resistance had become sporadic. The last act in the Battle of Rome was the knocking out of a German scout car outside the Bank of Italy near the ancient Forum. The German commander, Kesselring, is conducting a large-scale withdrawal to the north.

### *Monday, June 5th.*

Rome is now entirely in Allied hands. King Victor Emmanuel has formally conveyed his royal powers to his son, Crown Prince Umberto, who takes office as Lieutenant-General of the Realm.

It was announced later that British casualties in Italy, from the first landing to the fall of Rome, totalled 40,549, including 14,331 killed.

### ROME REJOICES

Rome, all its loveliest buildings and ancient monuments intact and its population ecstatic with joy, was fully occupied by troops of the Fifth Army to-day, writes L. Marsland Gander, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent.

When the city awoke at dawn to find that the Germans had gone, it gave itself up to a spontaneous outburst of jubilation never equalled before in this war. Every Allied armoured car, every soldier, every vehicle, every gun made a royal progress through the streets between crowds whose rapturous

attentions became positively embarrassing. They showered roses on the cars and leant out of the windows of five and six-storey buildings, cheering and waving Italian, American and British flags.

Practically all shops closed and business came to a complete standstill as the celebration mounted through the morning to a crescendo of wildest enthusiasm.

As I passed Mussolini's Palazzo Venezia, screams, hoots and occasional shots came from a big building opposite. There were shouts from the crowd to the effect that : " We've got twenty-four Fascists locked up there. They are armed. Try to get them under guard quickly."

Driving round Lateran Square, past the Colosseum and the Forum and along Rome's principal street, Il Corso, I could see the city is in good order. From all the principal buildings Allied flags are waving. A great Italian tricolour flies from the summit of the Capitoline Hill.

Groups of twenty or thirty young men, with flags and the arm-bands of various political parties, some carrying guns, marched up and down, singing songs such as Garibaldi's Hymn and the old revolutionary favourite, " Bandiera Rossa " (the Red Flag). Printed labels saying " In the pay of the Germans " have been pasted on the windows and doors of certain shops. An American soldier, son of an Italian-born American barber, climbed up on the famous balcony of the Palazzo Venezia, from which hangs an Italian flag, and made a speech before as big a crowd as Mussolini ever drew. He called for the end of Fascism, Nazism and victory for the Allies, and pungently expressed his personal opinion of the ex-Duce.

The dome of St. Peter's, dominating the city, glittered in the bright Italian sunshine as columns of British and American troops skirted the square where Vatican City begins. There was no sign of life at the Vatican, which is intact. The only remark of the Vatican's Swiss Guards was that the Germans always respected its neutrality and they hoped the Americans would do the same. St. Peter's was closed to-day, but it will probably be open to-morrow.

The Allied authorities are already beginning to establish points for feeding the population, and the roads are thronged with lorries travelling to Rome, from Anzio, where food stocks sufficient to cater for 2,000,000 have been stored in readiness.

*Tuesday, June 6th.*

#### INVASION

“ Under the command of General Eisenhower, Allied naval forces, supported by strong air forces, began landing Allied armies this morning on the northern coast of France.”

This was Communiqué No. 1, from Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, issued at 9.00 this morning. To-day all Britain has waited and listened for news, as never before since the fall of France and the evacuation from Dunkirk. This is “ D-day ” at last !

Last night British and American airborne troops and parachutists, using over 1,000 troop carriers and gliders, landed behind the German defences in Normandy. Between midnight and 8 a.m., 5,000 tons of bombs were dropped on ten coastal batteries. The bombing was supported by a bombardment from 640 naval guns, ranging from 16 inch to 4 inch. Battleships, cruisers, monitors, destroyers and specially designed close-support vessels were engaged. Naval losses were reported to be “ surprisingly small.”

German air opposition has so far been negligible. Opposition from the coast defences was not so serious as had been expected, it was learned at S.H.A.E.F. (Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force) to-night. The invasion armadas were led by hundreds of minesweepers which swept channels and marked them for miles against great difficulties.

The landings, which involved the use of 4,000 ships, with several thousand smaller craft, were made under cover of the most gigantic air umbrella yet seen. Berlin radio says that landings were made at about twelve points along 160 miles of coast, from west of Cherbourg to Le Havre, that this evening the beachhead was 13 miles long and several miles deep across the River Orne and that there was heavy fighting in the whole area.

The greatest combined operation in history has been launched, and hope has been born again in the hearts of millions of Hitler's slaves throughout occupied Europe.

#### THE SKY TROOPS

At two minutes past one this morning writes Leonard Mosley, I parachuted into Europe—six-and-a-half hours before our seaborne forces began the full-scale invasion. I was near the shore, hiding from Nazi patrols as I watched

our first forces go ashore from the sea at 7.15 a.m. These paratroops and glider-borne troops I consider the bravest, most tenacious men, I have ever known. They held the bridgehead against Hitler's armies for over sixteen hours, despite overwhelming odds. I believe that the things they have done are almost solely responsible for the great success of the invasion so far in this sector.

Our prime job as an airborne force was to silence a coastal battery, which might otherwise have blown our ships to bits as they came to the shore. We silenced it.

Our other job was to secure two important bridges over the canal and river north of Caen and to hold them against all comers until the main armies arrived. We are still holding them. They are still intact.

I emplaned in "C. for Charlie," a great black bomber, at 11.20 last night, and we took our place in the taxi-ing line of planes that stretched from one end to the other of one of the biggest airfields in Britain. There were Lancashire men, Yorkshiremen and Northumbrians.

Half an hour before us went the gliders and paratroopers who were going to try to take the vital bridges before they could be blown up. It was our job to bring them aid within thirty minutes of their surprise attack, and to prevent the Nazis from counter-attacking.

As our plane, the third in the formation, took the air and pointed for France, little Robson, next to me, was singing softly.

It was five minutes to one when the light snapped off and a door in the plane was opened. Under it was could see the coast of France. Flak from the coast defences was spouting flame everywhere.

The red light flashed and swiftly changed to green, and we were all shuffling down the hole and jumping into space. We knew we were going down to enemy territory covered with poles and holes, and thick with Nazis waiting for us.

I looked, as I twisted down, for the church I had been told to use as a landmark, but the wind caught me and was whisking me east. I came down in an orchard outside a farmhouse.

As I stood up with my harness off and wiped the sweat of my brown-painted face I knew I was hopelessly lost. Dare I go to the farmhouse and ask for directions? Suddenly there was a rip and tear in my flapping jumping-smock, and I flung myself to the ground as machine-guns rattled. There

were two smashing explosions—hand-grenades. I could now see figures manœuvring in the moonlight. I dived through a tangle of barbed wire into the next field, and began to run at the crouch.

Then, suddenly, at the farther edge there were two more figures, and they were coming towards me, carrying guns. There was a crash of Sten-gun fire, and both men crumpled up not 15 yards from me. Into the field stealthily came five men to challenge me—and I was with our own paratroopers again.

For two long weary hours we wandered the country. We hid from German patrols in French barns. We shot up a Nazi car speeding down a lane. A youth appeared with a German flask full of Normandy wine, and after we had drunk it he led us away from the enemy. Just after 3 a.m. we made our rendezvous.

I dropped my heavier equipment and made my way to the bridges, where the battle had ceased. Over both the river and the canal, spans were in our hands and firmly held by paratroop machine-gunners. Only beyond, in the west country, could the noise of battle be heard as we beat back a German counter-attack. The situation was grim. We had taken the Nazis by surprise, but they knew what was happening now and we could expect their tanks at any moment.

At 3.20 a.m. every Allied paratrooper breathed a sigh of relief as he heard the roar of bombers towing gliders towards the dropping ground. We watched the gliders unhooking and then diving steeply for earth. One, hit by A.A., caught fire and flew around like a ball of flame. We heard the crunch of breaking matchwood as gliders bounced on rocks and carcered into still-undestroyed poles. But out of every glider men were pouring, and jeeps and anti-tank guns and field guns—and we knew that even if Nazi tanks did come now we could hold them.

And now, as a faint glow began to appear in the sky, there was a roaring that rapidly grew to a thunderous roll. The climax of Phase One of the invasion was approaching. Bombers were swarming in like bees to give the coastal defences their last softening-up before our seaborne forces landed.

We were about two miles away, but the shudder of explosions lifted us off the ground. Soon the sky was lit with a green and purple glow from the burning German dumps,

and still more bombers came in and more bombs thudded to earth.

As dawn came I moved across country through Nazi patrols to get nearer to the coast. Everywhere there were traces of our airborne invasion—empty containers still burning their signal lights, wrecked gliders, and parachutes. It was hazardous going; one Nazi patrol was within a few yards of us, but we hid in a quarry and dodged them. Eventually we reached high ground overlooking the coast and waited until our watches showed 7.15.

A few minutes before it there was an earth-shaking holocaust of noise. Approaching the coast under cover of naval ships, the invasion barges were coming in, and firing as they came. It was a terrific barrage that must have paralysed the defences.

Then ships began nudging towards the beaches, and we shook hands in the knowledge that the invasion had at last begun.

By 10 a.m. the area of ground where we had established headquarters was getting a roasting from shells and mortar bombs. Prisoners were coming in now. I went into the village to drink a glass of cider with the Mayor. "Thank God you've come now, monsieur," he said. "Next week all the men in the area were to be conscripted to drape barbed wire across the poles in the area where you dropped." He arranged to give us a regular supply of milk and eggs from the farm. "I've three sons in Nazi prison camps, and I hate Boches," he said. "We have waited a long time for the hour of liberation."

There were children playing in the streets unmindful of the war only a few yards away.

Just outside the town, along the road to Caen, one paratroop unit was fighting a grim battle against the Nazi panzers, including two Panther tanks. One of the posts had been over-run and their anti-tank guns destroyed, but everywhere men were fighting desperately yet confidently.

I made my way back to the bridges to contact one of our units holding the bridgehead on the other side. The road was impassable, and one walked at a crouch through a ditch. Every few hundred yards one "ran for it," with snipers' bullets smacking the mud around. Nazi counter-attacks were coming every few minutes. But these Lancashire lads were holding on, though their numbers were growing hourly

smaller. The unit fought on until all opposition from the north-west ceased, and to their delight and relief a long line of green bereted men came into view. They were men of a noted commando unit.

More panzer grenadiers and self-propelled guns were massing on our southern flank. Around 6 p.m. a counter-attack was reaching full strength. We were all asking ourselves : Will relief come—relief from the sky ?

They did not let us down. It was just on 9 p.m. when the sky was suddenly filled with twisting and turning fighter planes, and under them a great fleet of bombers and gliders. As the gliders unhooked they wheeled through clots of ack-ack fire and dived steeply for earth. They were bigger gliders this time. Smoothly, with only a low whine of wind, down they came. It was a glorious sight. It lasted half an hour and became a maelstrom of noise as the Nazis tried vainly to hold them back. But I saw only one glider and one tug-plane hit. Then they were all down on the dropping ground and more men and more guns were pouring out. A general said to me, " Well, it's very satisfactory. It is still all going according to plan." We are confident it will continue to go according to plan.

Early this morning, wrote Marshall Yarrow Cater, path-finder paratroops dropped into the Cherbourg peninsula. In the half light of a watery moon they planted their signals to guide the paratroop transports in.

Casualties among these pioneers were heavy. Many descended in strongly defended zones to be cut down by machine-gun fire. Some were killed as they hung in trees by their parachutes. Others fell into deep water and, because of their burden of equipment, were drowned. But the signals were seen. Row after row of paratroopers leaped, scattering over a wide area. Many plunged up to their necks in swamps. In terrain ideal for infiltration warfare they prowled along ditches and hedgerows. Every hedge represented a potential fort. Each shadowy figure was challenged with a secret password. Groups formed and grew larger.

By dawn the brigadier-general had gathered 100 men around him. They had to struggle through a neck-high swamp to escape a German trap. Then they attacked the bridges which were three miles apart, across a river dividing the Peninsula. Much of their equipment had been lost in

the drop, but they had bazookas and machine-guns. They were met by heavy fire, but they drove the Germans across the river.

The fight for the bridges was fierce. One band suffered such severe casualties that a lieutenant was the senior officer surviving. Across the river the Germans were massing and the position looked bad. The general told his men they must hold on until next day, when seaborne reinforcements were expected. They held on against tanks and in the face of machine-gun, mortar and 88 mm. cannon fire. About 4.30 a.m. the glider troops began to crash-land to help relieve the pressure.

Fields had been mined and dotted with huge stakes. Others were heavily defended with machine-gun nests, sniper posts and mortars. Gliders, riddled in the air, plunged into trees, houses and ditches. One glider landed in front of an artillery piece. Its occupants were looking down the muzzle. Half of them were wiped out before they could unbuckle their safety belts.

Reinforced by the glider men, a sizeable force was soon withstanding heavy Nazi pressure. Late the same day seaborne troops with some tanks streamed into the area and the situation was saved. This keyhole into Europe has been kept open.

#### THE BOMBERS AND FIGHTERS

A few hours before the landing, R.A.F. Bomber Command made its most devastating attack on the German batteries along the coast. All the Canadian and Australian squadrons working with Bomber Command were in the attacks.

At daybreak more than 1,300 heavy bombers of the United States Eighth Air Force took up the air bombardment of gun emplacements and defensive works. Bombing, strafing, and patrolling, fighter aircraft of the Ninth Air Force were in the air continuously from 4.30 a.m., covering the movement of the Allied expeditionary armies over sea and on to the beaches, and probing ahead of the landing parties for tactical objectives beyond the operations zone.

Every plane in the vast armada that flew the first troops and equipment on to the Continent was painted, zebra-like, with broad blue and white stripes to make it recognisable to friendly forces.

Fighters of the Eighth Air Force launched wave after wave



of dive-bombing and strafing forays on key ground targets in the afternoon. Railway communications were the favourite objective, as the Allies sought to demoralise the German supply system.

Three Me. 109's were shot down by Mustang pilots after a chase across Paris at roof-top level.

### THE NAVY

We are lying at anchor now, writes F. W. Perfect, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent on board H.M.S. . . . We are three miles off a once pretty seaside resort between Cherbourg and Le Havre. Not until we were within eight miles of our objective did the Germans give the slightest sign that they knew of our coming.

Then the shore batteries opened up and shells began to raise fountains of water among the fleet, but by this time it was too late. The bombardment force was in full blast, turning that little corner of France into a flaming hell.

The collection of the convoys under conditions of secrecy was a stupendous task, involving as it did some 4,000 ships and many thousands of smaller craft. A force of 200 minesweepers was used, with 10,000 officers and men. The first ships of the fleet were well on their way across the Channel before the last had left their moorings, yet not a single enemy plane or reconnaissance craft showed up during the entire passage.

Our fighter cover never left us for a moment throughout the journey across. Spitfires circled round us during daylight : Lightnings took over during the evening, and during the night Mosquitoes watched over us. But not a single Hun came within detection range.

The beach which this particular force set out to seize lies east of the Cherbourg Peninsula. It is bordered for its entire length and beyond to two other sectors to the right, which are the objectives of two other forces similar to our own, by a frieze of pleasant seaside villas. In the centre of this beach the Germans were known to have built a strong defensive post. A battery of 5.9's—at least one which had previously been destroyed by the R.A.F.—commanded most of the Bay. Towards Le Havre a still bigger battery reputed to be of 15-inch guns, presented another formidable obstacle to the invading forces.

As the long line of transports and landing craft deployed into position for landing eight miles off shore, battleships, cruisers and destroyers sailed in right up to the coast defences and put down a paralysing bombardment. It was a dull grey morning, with a lively sea that gave the small craft some anxious moments. The gun-flashes lit up the entire bay, while the roar of the guns rolled out like thunder.

"H" hour was at 7.25, but by the time it arrived, and the first of the attackers swept into the beaches, the first success of the invading armies had already been won far out of sight behind the enemy lines by the paratroops and airborne troops. We knew that when our force went in to attack their left flank had already been secured.

There was still little sign of resistance as they neared the beach, and as they sprang ashore it was seen that the German propaganda stories about elaborate and deadly beach obstacles were here, at least, in the main just propaganda. But it was not so everywhere.

As I write, the first German prisoners have been brought alongside—six members of a German coastal defence unit. The N.C.O. told his captors that the defenders had no suspicion of the Allied assault. The first thing he knew about it was when he was blown out of his bunk as the naval bombardment started.

There were still guns in action. Shells suddenly began to straddle the *Warspite*, so she and the monitor *Lord Roberts* embarked upon a little private war with the big-gun battery towards Le Havre. The enemy was quickly silenced.

As the sun rose and the second and third phases of the assault churned past in endless streams of landing barges the scene took on a curious intimacy.

The Navy has triumphed again. Not a man was lost during the Channel crossing.

#### THE ASSAULT TROOPS

I have just heard the first eye-witness story of the battle of the beaches, wrote James McGlinchy this afternoon. It is a story of heavy fighting, untold heroism and supreme sacrifice.

It was told by Bert Brandt, a Press photographer with American units, who was on the beaches this morning for thirty minutes and then spent hours more within gunshot of the scene. Brandt told me how some of the first assault troops which stormed the beaches went down under a

withering German cross-fire, but more and more men climbed ashore over their bodies until a foothold was established.

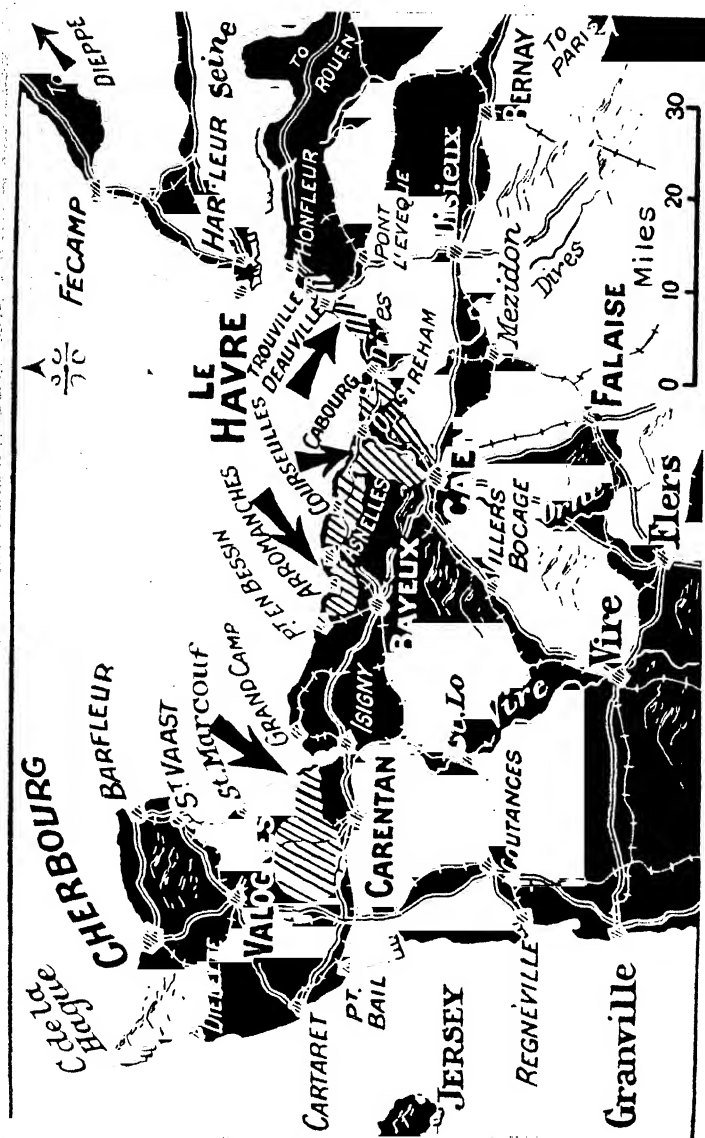
Brandt said : " It was hotter than hell over there. I was at Anzio, but Anzio was nothing like this. The Germans laid down an intense pattern of fire on the beaches with 88 mm. guns and raked them with cross-fire from machine-gun emplacements. American casualties were heavy on some beaches, light on others.

" On one beach, German machine-guns wiped out some of the first men to land as soon as the doors of their landing craft were opened. Because of opposition met by the demolition parties which went in first, later boatloads with heavy equipment were delayed getting ashore. American assault boats went in at high tide over huge iron obstacles, some of which were mined. When the tide receded many boats were stuck on top of the obstacles. A fair number of mines went off in the water and on the beaches.

" Some boats were burning and a pall of smoke hung over the beach. There were tremendous rafts just floating offshore, jammed with trucks, tanks and ambulances. On the beaches the men crouched behind jeeps and tanks, anything they could find. At one point they made their way to a German concrete defence wall and that was the first cover they found."

A graphic account of the landing was given to R. Monson by Sergeant George Maynard, of Yorkshire :

" We landed soon after seven a.m. from an assault craft," he said. " As our line of assault craft approached the shore the Navy's guns were blazing and smashing shells into fortifications guarding the strip of the beach which we had to take. Just ahead of us tank landing-craft were already inshore and tanks were racing up the shingle. German 88 mm. guns made several direct hits but others came on. Our craft by this time was bumping on to the beach. Three hundred yards ahead of us was a high concrete wall about 20 feet high. It was really a road embankment with a road running along the top. It was embrasured and the Jerries were lining the top and potting away at us, sweeping with their machine-guns and hurling down hand-grenades as we swept forward. Several of our lads fell, but we dashed forward and got under the base of the wall where the Jerries couldn't get at us. More of our landing craft were coming inshore. I took a glimpse backward and saw one go up in flames. It had hit one of their underwater obstructions.



Daily Telegraph

THE INVASION OF NORMANDY

"Most of our men seemed to be getting ashore. Jerry was fighting hard to stop us, but soon the beach was swarming with our chaps.

"My party worked along the base of the wall, and then charged over the open beach. Sloping ground on our left led up to the top of a road. We fought our way up this slope and got into a wood criss-crossed with low, stone walls, just like Sicily. There were snipers behind these walls. The chap next to me went down shot through the neck. The enemy was defending strongly from trenches. We drove them out with tommy-guns and rifle fire as we advanced, but the men behind the walls were causing us a lot of casualties. We were working round the Jerries manning the top of the wall when a grenade lobbed over and exploded at my feet. I got this smack in the head and was out of the battle.

"By this time the mortars were popping off. The beach and wood became very hot places. There was a certain amount of barbed wire among the trees, but it was low, and we had got through it without much difficulty. We shifted Jerry from his strong-points and everything was going well when I left."

Mr. Churchill, making his second statement to-day in the House of Commons, said: "This operation is proceeding in a thoroughly satisfactory manner" (Cheers). . . . "Many dangers and difficulties which this time last night appeared extremely formidable are behind us. (Cheers). The passage of the sea has been made with far less loss than we apprehended. . . . The landing of the troops on a broad front, both British and American and Allied troops . . . has been effective and our troops have penetrated in some cases several miles inland. . . . The outstanding feature has been the landings of the airborne troops which were, of course, on a scale far larger than anything that has been seen so far in the world. These landings took place with extremely little loss and with great accuracy. . . .

"A very great degree of risk had to be taken in respect of the weather, but General Eisenhower's courage is equal to all the necessary decisions. . . ."

*Wednesday, June 7th.*

All the invasion beaches on the Norman coast have been cleared of the enemy, and some of them have linked up. German armour which attacked near Caen yesterday afternoon

was repulsed. Tanks have been landed and airfields are being made. The landing of troops and stores continues at a great pace.

The Germans say that between eight and thirteen divisions have already been put ashore, that the attacks are focused on the Cherbourg Peninsula and the River Orne, and that airborne troops have made new landings, some 30 and 40 miles inland. But it is evident that the Germans are still confused and ill-informed, and Shaef is careful to give little information.

The weather is still against the Allies, but their Air Force is very active against enemy communications and troop movements.

General Eisenhower visited Normandy this afternoon.

"Since Dunkirk we have been planning this assault," writes Eric Stowell in a long article in to-day's *Daily Telegraph*, and a planning staff under a British chief has been fully engaged on it since March, 1943. No single operation in the history of war has ever involved such vast and complicated planning and training, or such precautions to ensure secrecy. Here are two illustrations, only, from Mr. Stowell's fascinating account :

Special training centres were set up on Britain's coasts, involving the clearance of large areas of populated countryside, so that exercises with live ammunition could be undertaken by Army, Navy and Air personnel. It was not merely assaulting infantry who had to be rehearsed with many special weapons which have been developed and are still "secret." Engineers were busy rehearsing the demolition of defences and practising with certain "secret" equipment of their own. Signals and supply services and vehicle drivers were exercising under "beach-landing conditions." . . .

This invasion is very different from any that has preceded it. For some time, it is envisaged, the forces must depend upon packed rations in portable form. First, the twenty-four hour ration pack, designed specially for the day of assault and issued to each man, together with a "Tommy" cooker. Its weight, in waxed cardboard container, is less than 2½ lb., and it comprises pressed blocks of cooked dehydrated meat and of rolled oats with sugar and fats, together with a compressed block of tea, sugar and milk powder. (The meat and oatmeal blocks can be gnawed dry if water is not available). It also includes chocolate, boiled sweets, chewing gum, sugar

tablets and meat extract cubes. Then there is the composite pack, familiarly known as the Compo. Made up in seven different types, it contains different assortments of canned meat, fish, vegetables and fruit, jam and margarine, sweets and chocolate, biscuits and cheese, tea-sugar-milk powder, salt, cigarettes, matches and soap. It weighs about 64 lb. and it provides one day's ration for fourteen men. Besides these there are self-heating soup and cocoa, brought rapidly to boiling-point by igniting chemicals in a cylinder within the tin ; and, finally, the " Bag " ration of sweet biscuits, chocolate and chewing-gum, intended to ward off sea-sickness.

The detailed picture of the Normandy coast with which the assault troops went in four days ago had taken four years to produce. An intensive study of every yard of the coast had been made by a group of War Office experts for two and a half years. Every unit of the assault forces had a perfect model of its beach.

*Thursday, June 8th.*

Bayeux has been liberated, and the Allies hold the high ground east and south-east of it. There is fierce fighting along the whole front, but no major German counter-attack has yet been launched and the Allies still have almost undisputed control of the air.

General Sir Bernard Montgomery (" Monty "), who commands the 21st Army Group, arrived in the beachhead area to-day to take direct command of the assault. It is revealed that the invasion spearheads were the 50th (Northumberland) Division and the 1st American Infantry Division, both of which fought in North Africa and Sicily. Tanks and many other vehicles were waterproofed elaborately for the landings, and many of them drove through sea-water 6 feet deep to reach the shore.

Last night the R.A.F. bombed railway marshalling yards, including that at Versailles, and an enemy concentration in Normandy.

A strong warning against over-optimism was given by Mr. Churchill in a brief war statement which he made in the House of Commons to-day. " Though great dangers lie behind us," he said, " enormous exertions lie before us."

Mr. Papandreou, Greek Premier, has formed a new cabinet, including representatives of resistance movements in Greece.



#### VICTORS AND VANQUISHED

*Above:* The Allied Supreme Command. Standing, from left to right, are Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay, Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory and Lieut. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith. Seated: Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, Gen. Eisenhower, and Gen. Montgomery. Gen. Omar Bradley does not appear. (Photo: Planet News)

*Below:* The surrender of the German commander of Cherbourg: Lieut. Gen. von Schlieben, facing the camera. To his right is the German commander of the Normandy sea defenses, Rear Adm. Heintze. Gen. Schlieben's capitulation is being received by Major Gen. Lawton Collins, the young commander of the U.S. Seventh Corps. (Photo: U.S. Official)





#### NEW TANKS: FLAILS AND FLAME THROWERS

*Above:* The flail tank, by means of chains continuously thrashing the ground, detonates mines buried up to three feet deep. It thus clears a path through a minefield for other tanks, transport and infantry. The flail tank is usually a Sherman.

*(Crown Copyright Reserved)*

*Below:* The Churchill Crocodile, operating its flame thrower. The fuel trailer can just be seen.

*(Crown Copyright Reserved)*

*Friday, June 9th.*

The invasion still goes well. In the face of heavy German counter-attacks the beachheads have been further enlarged and the "build-up" continues ceaselessly as an armada of ships unloads men and material. Enemy attempts on the cross-Channel lines of communications have been almost negligible. Where are the U-boats?

Rommel's Seventh and Fifteenth Armies are now fiercely engaged and a great tank battle is developing near Caen.

Sainte Mère Eglise, Trevières, and Formigny have been liberated. American troops have cut the main road and railway to Cherbourg. Parachutists are still being dropped behind the German lines. Over 4,000 prisoners have been taken. Bad weather still handicaps the Allied Air Forces.

In a brisk action off Ushant, one German destroyer was sunk, one driven ashore, and two more damaged.

The whole Italian front is on the move. Viterbo, Vetralla and Tarquinia have been taken. A German collapse seems possible.

The Italian Premier, Marshal Badoglio, has resigned, and Signor Bonomi has formed a cabinet.

*Saturday, June 10th.*

British armoured forces have reached Tilly. The Americans have taken Isigny. The battles for Caen and Carentan are still raging. Berlin says that Cherbourg is in danger.

General Montgomery has established his H.Q. in Normandy.

While battleships and cruisers continue to give heavy artillery support to the Allied armies in Normandy, destroyers, motor torpedo-boats, motor gun-boats and other little ships guard the flanks of the convoy route along which flow the men and material of the gigantic build-up of the invasion forces.

General de Gaulle states that no agreement has been reached between his Provisional French Government and the Allies on civil administration in liberated France, and he criticises the Allied currency arrangements for France.

France's resistance groups, for their notable part in contributing to the success of the Allied landings by sabotaging the railways from Paris to Normandy and Brittany, have been given full military status in the Army as "the French Forces of the Interior," said a Government order issued in Algiers last night.

Marshal Stalin announces an offensive on the Karelian Isthmus, north of Leningrad. Terijoki and Yatkina have been taken by the Russians.

Japanese positions on Guam, Saipan and Tinian Islands have been attacked by a powerful task force of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

#### FORWARD INTO NORMANDY

The tapestry of this campaign changes from gay to grim with startling suddenness, writes Christopher Buckley, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent. There is so much that is intensely picturesque—if war can ever be picturesque—in the immediate hinterland of the battle.

As one drives out from Bayeux one passes long files of marching infantry moving south along the straight, tree-lined French roads and keeping well in under the cover of the hedges. Every man wears twined into the netting that covers his steel helmet a rose, the gift of some grateful citizen of Bayeux. And the drab, workmanlike transport lorries, the Bren carriers and the tanks are garlanded with flowers in the same manner—a touch of panache which would have appealed to the author of "Cyrano de Bergerac."

One did not have to go far down the road to run into the grimmer reality of war. I passed a couple of stationary tanks. The crew of one had propped a dartboard against the turret, and were engaged with complete absorption in their game while waiting for the order to go forward. Seated on the armour plating of the other was a gunner, entirely lost in a sixpenny "thriller." He was taking part in what might develop into the greatest battle in history—but he was completely absorbed in his "thriller."

I had just passed these two classic examples of the English *sang froid habituel* when I ran into what had once been the village called Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is only a village by courtesy (I suppose it owes its name to some forgotten crusader returned from the wars). I doubt if it had more than a dozen houses. But every one of these was hopelessly shattered by shellfire. It was the grimmiest spectacle I have yet seen in France. And among the ruins of the houses were the burnt-out hulks of half-a-dozen scout cars—our own. They may have run into an ambush and been shot up at close quarters or, more probably, they may have simply been caught by a concentrated German

"artillery stonk." Anyhow, they had been completely obliterated and so had the village.

Among these orchards and this deep lush grass a tank battle has been in progress intermittently during the past thirty-six hours. The abundant foliage provides adequate cover and the attacker is, on the whole, at a disadvantage. It is difficult to obtain satisfactory observation posts, and he is the more likely to blunder into an ambush at close quarters. And so the tanks, when they move forward, move with due caution and behind them the infantry move steadily up on foot, taking the fullest advantage of the hedges along the roads, and consolidate where the tanks have been.

The Germans counter-attacked sharply against our forces south of Bayeux last evening, across rich, lush meadowland intersected with frequent hedges and undulations which gave ample cover to the advancing forces. Tiger tanks went forward, with infantry in close support. Then our 17-pounder anti-tank guns, which had been rushed up to the position, opened up against the Tigers. Within a few minutes they had knocked out three of them with direct hits. At the same time the field guns began concentrated fire against the advancing infantry. Finally the Navy came in, firing from a range of over 10 miles with great weight of shell power and considerable accuracy against the transport columns in the rear of the German positions. The enemy began to withdraw, and the crisis was passed. They left three Tiger tanks complete wrecks amongst the deep grass, as well as a couple of armoured cars and at least four staff cars. And their infantry losses had been by no means inconsiderable.

We saw our screen of anti-tank guns disposed among these meadows, and I saw immediately in front of them industrious farm-hands hard at work among the hay.

*Monday, June 12th.*

"We have won the battle of the beaches," said General Montgomery last night.

The Allies now hold some 60 miles of the Norman coastline. Carentan has been taken, and the Forest of C  risy cleared of the enemy. A fierce tank battle is being fought between Tilly-sur-Seulles and Caen. Some areas have been flooded by the Germans.

To-day, in better weather, more than 1,400 American Eighth Army Air Force heavy bombers attacked German

airfields, between Dreux and Lille, and many railway yards and bridges. Seven thousand sorties were flown. Spitfires have been operating since Saturday from an airfield in Normandy.

Mr. Churchill, General Eisenhower, General Marshall (U.S. Chief of Staff) and Field Marshal Smuts, and other officers of high rank, have visited Normandy to-day.

Last night, for the third night in succession, Mosquitoes dropped 4,000 lb. bombs on Berlin.

The advances in Italy and in the Karelian isthmus continue.

*Tuesday, June 13th.*

American troops, by-passing Montebourg, were last night pressing steadily on to Valognes and Cherbourg, said a message from Supreme H.Q. received in London at 1 a.m. to-day. They were receiving powerful artillery support from the United States battleships *Texas* and *Nevada*. Rommel was believed to have brought in reserves, including motorised and armoured units, from Brittany.

British tanks, held up for forty-eight hours, in front of Tilly-sur-Seulles, last night broke through on the right and have swung behind the opposing Germans towards Caumont and Villers Bocage. There is still heavy fighting around Caen.

General Eisenhower has sent congratulations to all in his command on "a brilliantly successful beginning to this great undertaking." Marshal Stalin has praised its "brilliant success."

Last night the R.A.F. dropped 1,400 tons of bombs on Gelsenkirchen oil plant, and attacked Cologne and other targets. To-day American bombers have again done great damage to airfields and communications in France.

The wounded are being brought from Normandy to England, by air or by specially designed sea-craft, with remarkable promptitude and care.

#### ORADOUR-SUR-GLANE

The French authorities in London to-night issued a report on the massacre of Oradour-sur-Glane, one of the most barbaric atrocities in the list of crimes perpetrated by the Germans. There are rumours that they found an arms-dump in the village, or that German soldiers were killed there. At 1.30 p.m. on Saturday, June 10th, S.S. troops of Der Fuehrer

Division took possession of the village and burned it to the ground. Of 750 inhabitants, seven or eight escaped. The Germans shot the men and burned the women and children in the church.

*Wednesday, June 14th.*

*Four years ago to-day the Germans entered Paris.*

Villers Bocage, a key-point 14 miles south of Bayeux, was occupied yesterday, and British armour is pouring through the breach in the German lines.

In a daylight raid, R.A.F. heavy bombers dropped 1,200 tons of explosives on the U-boat and E-boat concrete pens at Le Havre. Many 5-ton bombs were dropped from a height of 3 miles. Many tactical targets have also been raided.

The Maquis, the French guerrillas, have contributed greatly to the success of the invasion by steadily increasing activity all over France. They now control many areas.

The Russians are still making rapid progress in Karelia, but in Italy Kesselring's rearguards are making a stand at last, 75 miles north of Rome, to allow their disorganised 14th Army to escape.

*Thursday, June 15th.*

Tokyo was bombed to-day by American Super-Fortresses, with great success and few losses. This marks a new turn in the Pacific war and the advent of a new weapon. The Super-Fortress, B.29, has a range of 5,000 miles with a bomb-load of eight tons. It has a wing-span of 141 feet, a length of 98 feet, it is heavily defended and can fly at great height and speed. Japan will now be bombed with increasing frequency from bases in China and Burma and Pacific islands.

American troops have landed on Saipan Island in the Marianas. Australians have occupied Hansa Bay in New Guinea.

The Russians have broken through the second defence zone in Karelia.

General de Gaulle went to Normandy and has returned to England to-day, leaving behind a civil commissioner and a military commandant for the liberated area.

"The months of this summer may, by the victories of this Allied campaign, bring full success to the cause of freedom," said Mr. Winston Churchill to-day.

*Friday, June 16th.*

The King visited the Normandy beachheads to-day. He crossed in H.M. cruiser *Arethusa* and landed on the shore from an amphibious "duck." He lunched with General Montgomery at Advanced 'H.Q. and at an open-air investiture less than six miles from the front, decorated Major-General Keller, Commander of the Canadian Third Division, with the C.B.E. Later he returned safely to a South Coast naval port. It is four centuries since a reigning sovereign of England last set foot on Norman soil to visit his armies fighting in Calvados.

American troops have captured St. Saviour le Vicomte and recaptured Montebourg, in the Cherbourg peninsula, and are pressing on towards the great naval base. British troops are now two miles south of Caumont, in the centre of the line, but the sector from Caen to the River Orne is static and fiercely contested.

Rommel is being compelled to use his reserves where he can and not where he wishes, and the Allied Air Forces are heavily hampering his supply lines.

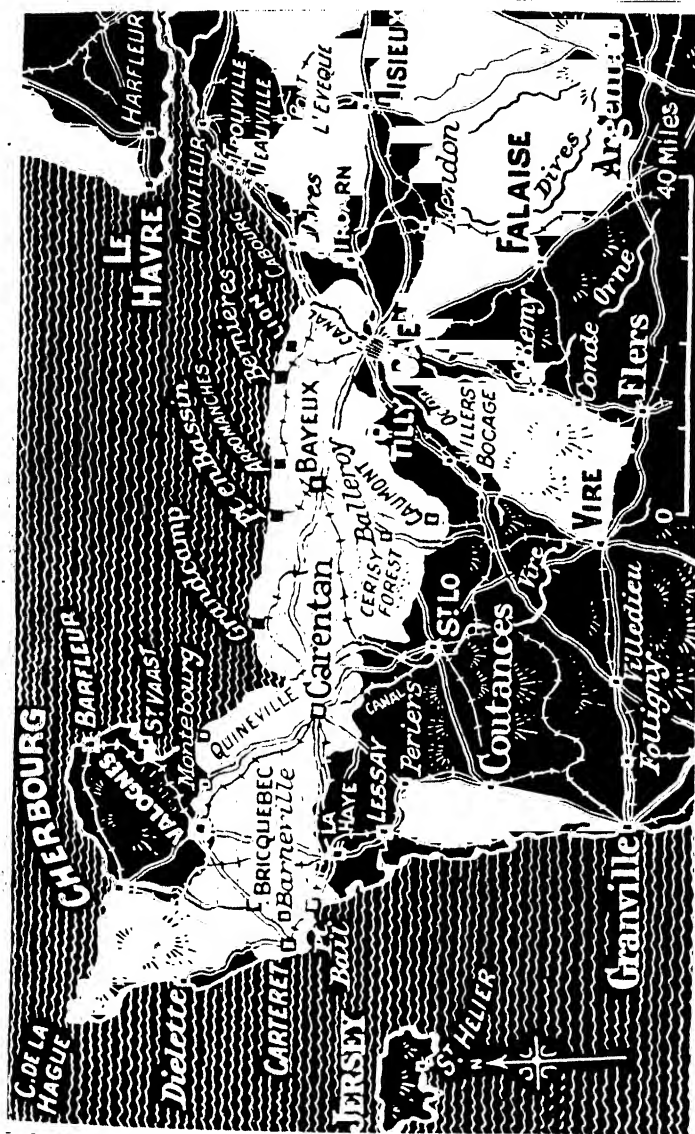
#### THE FLYING BOMBS

Mr. Morrison, Minister of Home Security, announced to-day in the House of Commons the launching against Britain of the Germans' long-vaunted secret weapon, the pilotless plane, which is perhaps better described as a flying-bomb. A number of these have exploded in various parts of London and Southern England since Tuesday morning.

The machine is a small monoplane, jet-propelled and launched from a ramp. It has a speed of 300 to 350 miles an hour, and carries about 2,200 lbs. of high explosive. It is not radio-controlled, but operated by an automatic pilot, set before the take-off. Once launched, therefore, the enemy has no control over its movements.

German propaganda announced nearly a year ago that the attacks would begin soon, and since then the R.A.F. has heavily and systematically bombed the experimental station at Peenemunde, factories, and the many launching stations which were detected under erection in northern France.

The R.A.F. has been quick to meet the attacks with fighter planes, anti-aircraft guns and balloon barrages. Shooting



THE CAMPAIGN IN NORMANDY

Daily Telegraph



down the "doodle-bug," as pilots have dubbed it, is becoming the favourite sport of the Ninth Air Force. Nevertheless a number are getting through the defences, causing casualties and damage.

Their approach is always betrayed by the distinctive rattling throb of the jet-turbine, and at night they show a stream of yellow flame at the tail. The Ministry of Home Security says : "When the engine of the pilotless aircraft stops and the light at the end of the machine is seen to go out, the explosion will soon follow—perhaps in five to fifteen seconds ; so take refuge from blast."

*Sunday, June 18th.*

Cherbourg is isolated ; at mid-day the U.S. Ninth Infantry Division captured Cap du Carteret, on the west coast. A vicious German attempt to break out of the Peninsula was defeated, but they have recaptured Montebourg for the second time. There are about 25,000 Germans in the trap. Prisoners taken in Normandy already total over 15,000.

General Eisenhower in a special communiqué issued last night, said that the Army of the French Forces of the Interior had increased in both size and the scope of its activities. Road and rail traffic in the Rhone valley had been completely stopped owing to sabotage. Co-ordinated with the Allied effort, the widespread sabotage had delayed considerably the movement of German reserves to the combat zone.

The Germans are shooting many innocent French hostages.

The bombing of German oil plants, air-fields and communications continues night and day.

The Russians have broken through the Mannerheim Line in the Karelian Isthmus.

Assisi has fallen to the Eighth Army.

In Burma the Chinese are still advancing in the Mogaung Valley. In China the Japanese have taken Changsha, capital of Hunan.

Marshal Tito, President of the National Liberation Committee and Dr. Subasic, Premier in the Royal Yugoslav Government, have come to an agreement after a four-day meeting in Yugoslavia.

On Saipan Island the Americans have captured Asleto

airfield and shot down 353 Japanese carrier-borne aircraft which attacked the U.S. Fleet.



THE ITALIAN FRONT

Daily Telegraph

### FLYING BOMB STRIKES CHURCH

The morning service had just begun in a Southern England church to-day. At the lectern a member of the congregation was about to read the first Lesson.

Suddenly, with a shattering roar, a Nazi robot plane hurtled through the roof, and in a flash the building crumpled into a mass of rubble. One wall only remained, that where

the Altar stood undamaged, with the words of the text " Glory be to God " gleaming through the rising dust upon a scene of death and destruction. There was a congregation of about 150 in the little church at the time and a number of worshippers were killed. Injured worshippers and some bodies have been recovered and rescue workers were still working on the piles of débris late to-night.

The clergyman who was to have preached had a miraculous escape. He was standing in the sanctuary when the plane struck the church, and shaken, but unhurt, he walked to safety over dislodged masonry.

*Tuesday, June 20th.*

The Americans have fought their way to the outer defences of Cherbourg, and have captured Valognes and—for the last time—Montebourg. Rundstedt has ordered Cherbourg to be defended to the last man. The British have liberated Tilly, which is in ruins.

Synthetic oil-plants, airfields, communications, and flying-bomb sites in the Pas de Calais are still the main targets of the Anglo-American air offensive.

In Italy Perugia has been taken by the Eighth Army. The Germans have been driven back 100 miles in ten days.

Elba was yesterday completely occupied by Fighting French Forces which landed on the island on Saturday.

An Order of the Day from Marshal Stalin announces the capture of the Finnish fortress of Viborg (Viipuri).

Yesterday carrier-borne aircraft of the U.S. Fifth Pacific Fleet attacked a Japanese fleet between Luzon, in the Philippines, and Saipan, sinking or damaging three aircraft carriers, a battleship, cruisers and destroyers.

*Thursday, June 22nd.*

Cherbourg is almost encircled, and being fiercely attacked by land, air and sea. The southern defence zone is a waste of rubble and flames.

The Germans now have probably fifteen divisions, including five panzer (armoured) divisions in the line in Normandy. They have launched only local counter-attacks, and are relying mainly on sniping, small ambushes and infiltration (in which the country favours them) to contain the Allied

forces, and bad weather has limited the use of our overwhelming air power. But if we can break out !

Yesterday over 1,000 American bombers, with 1,200 escorting fighters dropped 2,000 tons of bombs on Berlin and flew on to bases in Russia. Last night R.A.F. bomber Command made heavy raids on key factories in the Ruhr and Rhineland.

A rifle factory in Copenhagen has been wrecked by saboteurs.

The Kohima-Imphal road in Burma, has been cleared of Japanese.

*Sunday, June 25th.*

American troops fought their way into Cherbourg to-day and now hold most of the town. The occupation of the port itself is believed to be imminent. This is the first major Allied victory in France, and provides the Allies with a first-class port and naval base—the third largest in France—capable of accommodating the biggest ships, 83 miles from Southampton.

From the other end of the bridgehead front between Tilly and Caen came reports of a new battle which began at 3.30 a.m. to-day with a tremendous artillery barrage, under which our infantry advanced to retake Tilly and gained between two and three miles to the south-east, which put them astride the Caen-Caumont road. Savage close-quarter fighting between British and German infantry in the thick woods east of Tilly followed the advance. The best of the German forces seem to have been concentrated in this sector, which has become the key to the whole campaign.

General Koenig, Commander-in-Chief of the French Forces in Britain, has taken command of the French Forces of the Interior, the Maquis, which are greatly handicapping the Germans by sabotage and open resistance.

Flying bombs are now fewer, thanks to R.A.F. attacks on their launching sites. A good many people find them harder to endure than the "old fashioned" bombing ; they are very noisy in flight, shaking the houses they pass over ; there is the suspense of waiting for the explosion after the engine has stopped ; and they are a little uncanny—robots which, once they have reached London, must be left to take their course and are certain to kill someone somewhere. Towns and villages on the "bomb lanes" to London suffer equally.

But the defences bring down many in the sea or the open country. Casualties have been fewer than expected, though large numbers of houses are being damaged by blast. The effect on the course of the war is nil.

### THE BATTLE OF THE BUILD-UP

The Allied invasion armies have brought a new future to Normandy, writes F. W. Perfect, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent, from Arromanches. What, three weeks ago, was a sleepy farming region, dotted along the coast by the seaside villas of wealthy Parisians, has become the most highly organised piece of territory in the world. Backward coastal villages have suddenly become town. Electricity lights places which have never known anything more advanced than candles. Telephone links have been established. Huge new highways, hundreds of miles of them, have been driven straight across country hitherto passable only by farm-tracks.

The work of first-class ports is being done on the beaches. In the words of a British staff officer : " We have put on the clock for this part of the world by one hundred years."

The Battle of the Beaches has been succeeded by the Battle of the Build-up. Newly arrived troops gape when they see the vast activity going on around them. Thousands of military police are operating the greatest one-way traffic system in existence. Every road is dotted with brand-new signposts giving directions to assembly areas, tank parks, duck parks (should it be " duck ponds " ?), dumps, hospitals and unit head-quarters of all kinds.

The soft Normandy soil has become criss-crossed by an elaborate network of coco-matting, chestnut palings and wire. Over it jeeps and trucks can roll safely in any weather. Narrow lanes have been doubled in width by putting a bulldozer to shave away one bank and hedge-row. Squads of Pioneers are encountered in every village shovelling the stone from wrecked houses into trucks which will take it out to the roadmakers. Acres and acres of wire surfacing have been laid to form vehicle assembly and maintenance depôts ; woodmen are clearing trees to make landing strips for aircraft.

In all these activities the various services work as one. The success of the Army at the front is due in no small way to the fact that we are winning the Battle of the Build-up.

## HEADQUARTERS UNDERGROUND

Newspaper correspondents have now been allowed to visit the huge underground Combined H.Q. from which the mounting of the invasion and the actual assault were controlled. Tunnelled deep in a range of English hills, it consists largely of a criss-cross of steel-arched galleries occupied by signal personnel of all the British, American and Canadian Services.

Communications are maintained by radio, telephone and teleprinters. The telephone switchboard carries 100 lines and 400 extensions. Another switchboard handles 100 teleprinters.

The work of building began two years ago, and similar H.Q.'s are available any time we want to begin other operations from this country.

114297

*Monday, June 26th.*

Lieut.-General von Schlieben, commander of the Cherbourg garrison, has been captured. Tanks have reached the Cherbourg water-front and infantry have fought their way into the docks. Although resistance continues fiercely the town is being steadily cleared.

Piombino, on the west coast of Italy has been captured by the Americans. The King's nephew, Lord Lascelles, has been taken prisoner in Italy.

Vitebsk and Zhlobin have fallen to the Russians.

Mogaung, the Japanese stronghold in Burma, has been captured by Chindits and Chinese.

## BLOOD FOR THE GERMANS

Just as the final attack on Cherbourg was about to begin yesterday morning a motor-cycle driven by a German, with an American airman in the side-car, came through the battle lines. A white flag waved over it.

Allied advance patrols stopped it. They saw the airman was badly wounded in the left arm. The American explained that he was a prisoner of war who had come from Cherbourg Military Hospital with a German Army doctor to ask for blood plasma and more drugs for the wounded there.

After being taken to a command post, they were supplied with the necessary drugs, and went back to the besieged town.

*Wednesday, June 28th.*

British tanks and infantry are attacking in a great arc around Caen. The British Second Army, under Lieut.-General Miles C. Dempsey, is now fighting in Normandy. All resistance in Cherbourg ceased yesterday.

German total casualties in Normandy are estimated at 80,000. The Allied total from June 6th to 20th, was 40,549.

Flying bombs continue to arrive.

Philippe Henriot, Vichy Minister of Propaganda, has been assassinated in Paris.

The Red Army has smashed the German centre on the White Russian front, forcing the Upper Dnieper and capturing Orsha, Mogilev, Shklov, Bykhov and Lepel. The encircled German divisions have been liquidated ; 20,000 were killed ; 10,000 surrendered.

#### VICTORY AT MOGAUNG

Since the great Allied victory at Mogaung the British and Indian troops who for years were forced to fight a purely defensive war against a numerically superior enemy have felt that the Japanese have been decisively beaten, and it does not come ill to be able to say, "I marched with the Fourteenth Army."

I have seen other battles on this front but I have chosen to write of Mogaung, writes an officer who was there, because that battle has finally disposed of the Japanese legend of wizardry and invincibility ; and because it was a perfect example of what British, American and Chinese troops working in the closest co-operation can achieve. Moreover, it was the first time in this war that troops from the British Isles have been in a position to seek out the enemy in the East, to inflict a decisive defeat upon him and to hold the ground they gained.

Mogaung is a small town in North-East Burma, about 40 miles from Myitkyina. It guards the bridge where the Mandalay and Myitkyina railway crosses the Mogaung River. About the size of an average English market town, it lies at the head of a valley some four miles wide, and bounded by two great ranges of hills. The area is one of the most malarial in the world. From a military point of view Mogaung is

important, for it commands the valley leading down to Indaw, Katha and beyond. Small wonder that the Japanese had made it an important base with a garrison of at least 1,000 men.

At the beginning of June hard fighting was going on throughout Northern Burma, and the great battle on the Imphal front was at its height. Deep in Burma Chindit forces were striking the enemy's lines of communication. At Myitkyina General Stilwell's forces, who had blasted their way down the terrible Hakawng Valley, were fighting desperately around the enemy's concrete positions. In the air the planes of Britain and America had so deflated the once-vaunted Japanese Imperial Air Force that its only retaliation was an occasional tip-and-run raid.

It was a moment that called for the capture of Mogaung, for with Mogaung and Myitkyina in Allied hands the advantages gained by months of hard fighting could be exploited.

Mogaung would only fall, we knew, to determined, experienced troops. General Stilwell decided to use his Chinese and a Chindit brigade which will be known to history as Calvert's Brigade, and which was originally part of the force led by Wingate in his first expedition. Now, in the second Chindit expedition, commanded by Brigadier J. M. Calvert, D.S.O., it had gained further renown.

For three months the brigade had been behind the enemy lines, living on limited canned rations dropped from the air; many of them were suffering from dysentery, malaria and physical strain. Now, too, the rains had broken. It was in these conditions that the brigade, composed of a battalion of the South Staffords and of the Lancashire Fusiliers, with the 6th Gurkhas, stood poised in the hills south-east of Mogaung with a resolve to take the town.

Never can men have had more confidence in a leader than the Brigade had in its thirty-one-year-old Brigadier Calvert, who had already become a legendary figure. It was his third campaign against the Japanese. He had always maintained that the British fighting man was master of the enemy, and now he would prove it again. Aggressive, determined, stronger than the toughest of the men, contemptuous of danger, he is known outside the brigade as "Mad Mike," but not to his men. A tough sergeant said: "Yes, they call the brigadier 'Mad Mike.' He is mad, too. He is mad about Hong Kong. He is mad about Singapore. He is



mad at the Jap. So he kicks them around." This was the man who was to carry out his oft-repeated phrase : "We will impose our will."

The brigade advanced along the hills, struggling in pouring rain up precipitous slopes in single file, smashing through each strong-point, and carrying their wounded with them. Finally from the wooded summits they could look ahead into Mogaung, lying by the river two miles away.

Somewhere to the north Chinese troops were battling their way down to join them. The brigadier issued his Order of the Day : "We will attack. . . . We will impose our will. . . . Do not think of your flanks."

The enemy's strength could only be roughly estimated ; already his artillery had opened up. No one could say when the Chinese would arrive. The southern flank was open and the northern flank bounded by the swollen torrent of the Mogaung River. The only way of evacuating wounded was by a few small planes (two men at a time) from an air-strip the other side of the hills. In the dark, rain-laden skies American and British transport planes were forcing their way through to drop much-needed food and ammunition.

It would be impossible to relate in detail the heroic action that followed. I think of the Lancashire Fusiliers hurling themselves at the narrow Pin Hmi bridge, swept by the fire of an enemy company invisible in the marsh, and of the Gurkhas raking this company in the rear and slashing it to pieces with their kukris and grenades. I think of the South Staffords, veterans of the desert, attacking position after position, indomitable and always victorious. I think of the doctors operating on ground-sheets in the mud as the wounded struggled back.

After ten days the brigadier's appreciation proved correct. The enemy had not counter-attacked. His plan was to hold positions in the villages and woods around Mogaung to the last man, relying on his superiority in artillery and his position. So the brigade pushed on, beating him out of post after post, till they drew to within half a mile of the town.

They would have been justified, perhaps, in holding what they had gained until the Chinese arrived. Prisoners, arms and two hospitals had been captured, together with a vast amount of stores. A message of congratulation had already been received from the Supreme Commander. The brigade was not in good shape. Casualties had been heavy. "Trench

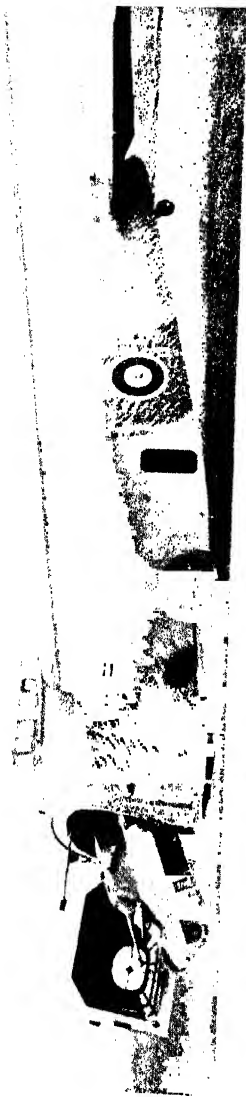


Photo of Britain's 8-ton Hamilcar glider, which gave such excellent service in the invasion of France, and at Arras, is the largest glider ever built in the world, with a span of 110 feet 6 inches. The picture shows a C-47 transport tank being driven from the bow of the glider, which also carries two Bren gun carriers and a self-propelled 105mm gun. (Photo: *London Express*)

THE "FACTORY BUSTER" Juggernaut, the most devastating weapon in the arsenal of the factory buster. The Juggernaut has yet known in action a more successful use than in the attack on German works at Eindhoven. (Photo: *London Express*)



#### IN THE RUINS OF CAEN

British infantrymen take advantage of every possible cover in their hazardous task of exterminating enemy snipers.

foot " was almost universal. Many men could hardly walk, and the limbs of many were swollen with terrible jungle sores. Battered by enemy artillery by day, they lay in the mud at night. The weather was growing worse, and Mogaung River was rising. Any counter-attack would have endangered the whole brigade ; but neither the enemy, the weather nor anything else could convince Brigadier Calvert's Brigade that it was finished.

It had been ordered to take Mogaung and it would do so. The Chinese said they were coming and they would come. Once again the Brigade attacked. Once again it advanced still further, and then—the Chinese came.

They came in their hundreds, ferried across the river to the east in British motor-boats. Tough, cheerful little men, seemingly impervious to conditions, they were soon in battle positions. Brigadier Calvert, and Colonel Li, the Chinese commander, were at once in accord. Would Colonel Li make himself responsible for the southern flank and the expected counter-attack ? He would. In that case the Brigade could carry on.

Only one enemy position now stood between the British forces and Mogaung—the village of Natigon. On that the American Air Force got to work. Japanese casualties were heavy but they held on. Many of their deeply-dug positions were untouched. A few days later, with flame-throwers, mortars and grenades, the South Staffords and the Gurkhas attacked. It was a day-long battle, with heavy casualties on both sides. At last, his position crumbling, the Japanese commander drew his pistol and shot himself. By evening the village railway line and station were ours and Mogaung only 100 yards away.

That evening, however, the South Staffords and the Lancashire Fusiliers battalions were only one company strong. The Brigadier stood on the railway line and looked at Mogaung. He sent for his Gurkha Defence Company, which was commanded by one British officer, and ordered it to attack the town.

When, in the waning light the assault was launched, the Japanese had had enough ; by nightfall the company had gained about 400 yards. Two days later, with the Gurkhas pressing gradually in and threatened by the Chinese from the south, the remaining Japanese fled Mogaung, leaving a handful of officers and warrant officers to die. On the morning of June 26th the town was ours.

The story of Mogaung is a story of victory over the Japanese which is being repeated wherever Allied troops meet the enemy to-day. It takes brave men to beat him, but he will be beaten.

*Friday, June 30th.*

The Odon salient, south-west of Caen, is being held firmly against bitter counter-attacks, with the R.A.F. bombers and rocket-firing Typhoons striking hard against panzer concentrations behind the lines. General Montgomery's strategy seems to have succeeded brilliantly in compelling the Germans to fritter away their failing strength in local actions without opportunity to mount a major attack.

The Americans are attacking near St. Lo and clearing up the Cherbourg peninsula.

Wing Commander "Johnny" Johnson, D.S.O. with Bar, D.F.C., to-day shot down his thirty-third enemy plane over Normandy, thus beating Group Captain Malan's long standing record score of thirty-two.

When the King and Queen paid a surprise visit to a rest centre for homeless victims of flying bombs in Southern England yesterday they heard many stories of narrow escapes and of individual bravery. Mrs. Mullander, whose husband is a prisoner-of-war in Poland, summed up the feelings of everyone when she said to the Queen, "We're British and we can stand it." The Mayor of the area said afterwards: "What impressed the King and Queen most was the good spirits of everyone and the way they are taking it."

The German rout among the forests and marshes of White Russia continues. Yesterday the Red Army took Bobruisk by assault: to-day they have forced the passage of the River Beresina.

In Italy French troops are closing on Siena.

In New Guinea the Australians are now 70 miles south-west of Wewak.

This month of historic events ends with good news from every battlefield in the world.

## JULY 1944

*Saturday, July 1st.*

During June R.A.F. Bomber Command operated on twenty-nine nights and dropped a record weight of bombs, well over 56,000 tons, on targets in Germany and occupied countries. The Allied total on Western Europe was about 150,000 tons.

Air-raid casualties in the United Kingdom during June were 1,935 killed, 5,096 wounded, against 68 killed and 75 wounded during May. The increase is due to the flying bombs.

The Germans are still incessantly counter-attacking the Odon salient without success.

It is now clear that the operations of the French Forces of the Interior are closely co-ordinated with Allied strategy. One example of their success is that Das Reich armoured division, which set out from Toulouse on June 6th, has not yet reached Normandy !

Yesterday U.S.A. severed diplomatic relations with Finland, where a Fascist government has been formed to continue the war against Russia.

*Monday, July 3rd.*

Marshal Stalin, in an Order of the Day, announced that the Red Army has captured Minsk, capital of White Russia and the last great German-occupied base on Soviet soil. It has fallen ten days after the opening of the White Russian offensive.

Allied troops in Italy have broken through the second of Kesselring's three defence positions before the "Gothic Line," running from Leghorn, through Florence, to Rimini. French troops of the Fifth Army to-day occupied Siena, on Highway Two. Eighth Army forces have surged forward into the Chiana Valley, opening up the area north-west of Lake Trasimeno.

Flying bombs appear to have put the professional criminal temporarily out of business. Not one serious crime has been reported in Southern England since the first attack by robots

over a fortnight ago. The number of thefts of goods in short supply has been the lowest of the war. Before the raids started thefts of vehicles containing such goods averaged five or six a day. The number of cases of house-breaking and shop-breaking has become negligible.

*Tuesday, July 4th.*

Two major attacks were launched in Normandy to-day, says Shaef. The British have captured Carpiquet and Verson, west of Caen, and the Americans, striking south from the Cherbourg peninsula, are within 2 miles of La Haye du Puits. Improved weather has brought intensified air support for our troops.

*Thursday, July 6th.*

In his eagerly awaited statement to the House of Commons to-day, Mr. Churchill gave a survey of the battle of the flying bomb, the losses we have suffered and the steps taken to meet the new German weapon. Up to 6 a.m. to-day a total of 2,752 had been killed, he said, and 8,000 injured by flying bombs estimated to number 2,754. Between 100 and 150 bombs a day have been launched against this country. A very large proportion of bombs launched failed to cross the Channel, or were shot down and destroyed by aircraft, anti-aircraft batteries or balloons.

Most of the casualties were in London. Evacuation of children has begun. "London," said Mr. Churchill, "will never be conquered, and will never fail, and, with her renown triumphant over every ordeal, will long shine among men." He said that there might be worse things than the flying bombs to come.

Yesterday it was announced that some weeks ago the Guards Chapel, near Buckingham Palace, received a direct hit from a flying bomb during a Sunday morning parade service. The Chapel was demolished, and many were killed and injured.

The Germans announced to-day that Field Marshal von Rundstedt, supreme commander in the west, has been replaced by Field Marshal von Kluge.

Flying Fortresses of the U.S. Eighth Army Air Force, which left Britain for Russia on June 21st, returned to-day from Italy. On this shuttle-raid they have attacked oil plants near Berlin and in Galicia and railway yards in Southern

France, and flown 7,000 miles. They were escorted throughout by a formation of Mustang fighters.

*Friday, July 7th.*

Over 450 Halifaxes and Lancasters of Bomber Command joined in the battle round Caen just before 10 o'clock to-night. They dropped a huge load of bombs on German troops, tanks, guns and strong-points north of Caen. The Americans to-day broadened their front to 33 miles north of St. Lo.

The Air Ministry stated to-night that R.A.F. Lancasters had used 12,000 lb. bombs in attacking one of the largest concrete structures, apparently built for the threatened long-range rocket assaults on England. The installation, in the Pas de Calais, was hit yesterday. Reconnaissance of the target has confirmed the great accuracy of the bombing.

Twenty-five thousand school children have left London already for areas out of range of the flying bombs. To-morrow another 15,000 go, and registration begins of mothers with children under five who wish to be evacuated to billets provided by the Government.

To-day over 2,600 American planes attacked aircraft works and synthetic oil plants in the Leipzig area.

To-night Super-Fortresses have again raided Japan.

*Sunday, July 9th.*

Caen, the most important road junction in Normandy, and the eastern bastion of Rommel's defence line, was captured by British and Canadian troops to-day. Caen is heavily mined with many booby-traps and snipers, and mopping-up is in full swing. To the west and north-west pockets of Germans, trapped by the swift break-through, are still fighting desperately around St. Germain and being steadily wiped out. We hold the line of the Orne through the town, while the Germans cling to the railway suburbs on the southern bank. Working almost alongside the mopping-up parties are the bull-dozers clearing the piles of rubble so that tanks and guns may pass freely through the bomb and shell-shattered ruins.

Salvage squads and mine-sweepers are still at work clearing up the port of Cherbourg. It will be open shortly for craft of the L.S.T. (tank landing ship) type. The Germans not only demolished much of it, they laid thousands of mines.



In Italy Kesselring is making a desperate attempt to save Leghorn and there is bitter fighting around Arezzo. The Fifth Army captured Volterra to-day.

The Red Army has broken into Vilna, and captured Lida. Saipan Island, in the Marianas, is now completely in American hands.

*Tuesday, July 11th.*

The fiercest fighting since the invasion is raging south of Caen to-night after the Canadians had broken through to reach the Orne on a front of more than 2 miles.

More than sixty German railway centres have been attacked by the Allied Air Forces in the past four days.

To-day 41,000 mothers and children left London, the largest Government evacuation since 1939.

President Roosevelt announces that he will stand for re-election, as President for a fourth term.

U.S.A. will recognise the French National Committee as the authority for the government of liberated France, pending elections.

*Thursday, July 13th.*

Despite fanatical German resistance the American troops under General Omar Bradley have pressed forward on a 40-mile front from La Haye du Puits to St. Lô. In the Caen sector there is a lull.

The Munich area was very heavily raided to-day for the third day in succession.

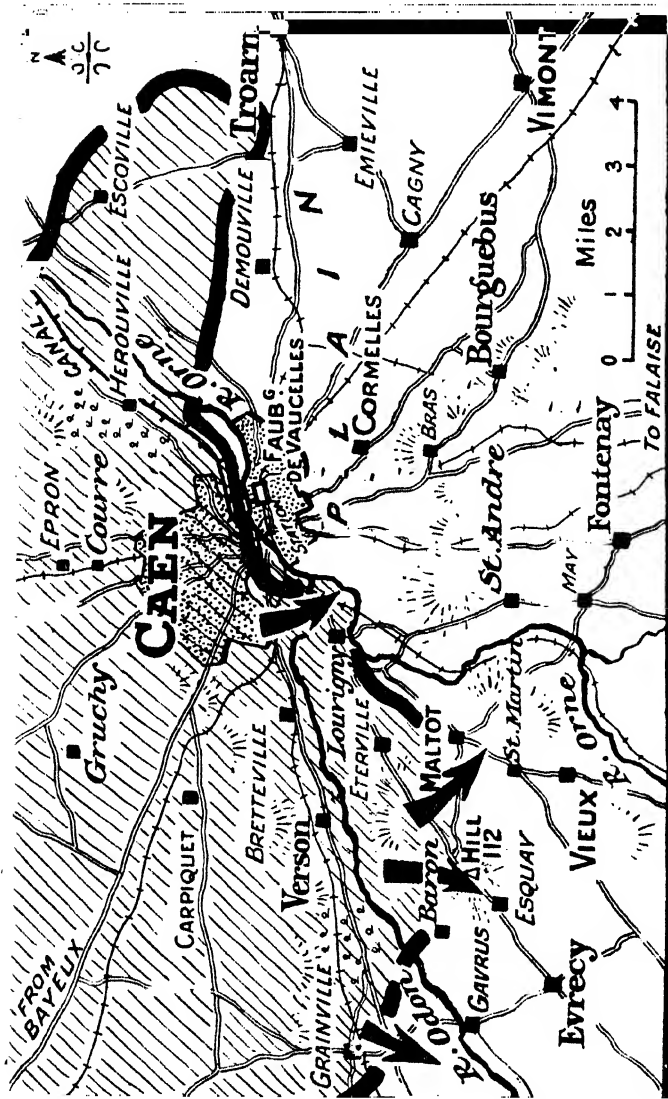
Last night no flying bombs appeared—the first free night since the attacks began.

An Order of the Day from Marshal Stalin announces that Vilna, capital of Lithuania, has fallen to the Red Army, and its garrison has been annihilated.

#### A TRAGEDY OF THE SEA

A story of tragedy and heroism in a lifeboat carrying twenty-two survivors from a merchant ship, torpedoed on a bitterly cold and stormy night, was told in Capetown last night.

When the ship went down after the second torpedo, more than ten survivors died of exposure as they stood almost chin



Daily Telegraph

THE CAEN SECTOR

deep in water which filled the lifeboat and which they could not bail out owing to lack of buckets or containers.

All fresh-water casks, blankets, emergency radio, distress signalling equipment and oars, except one, were lost when the boat capsized. The crew and two passengers, Lieut.-Commander S. C. Morley and his wife, who were coming on holiday from Nigeria, managed to right the boat and clamber aboard. The Norwegian captain, with his head badly injured by flying debris from the ship, stood in the middle of the boat all night with his wife firmly clasped in his arms. Her strength was ebbing in the biting cold, but for hours the captain held her head above the level of the water, which was up to his chest.

His unequal struggle ended three hours before dawn. The cold waters dragged her lifeless body from his grasp, and she floated face downwards in the boat. Overcome by grief and exhaustion, the captain collapsed and was drowned. Their bodies were placed on the gunwale, but were washed away.

All the survivors speak of the wonderful spirit shown by Mrs. Morley, who, though racked with rheumatism, kept cheering them up with songs. Then, when she and her husband finally decided to relieve the overloaded boat of their weight, she cheerfully took off her life-jacket, while her husband gave his jacket to the chief engineer. They both jumped overboard and came to the surface clasping each other closely, waved to the survivors, and then disappeared.

### *Friday, July 14th.*

The Americans continue to forge ahead on their 40 mile front west of St. Lô, but between St. Lô and Caen the position is unchanged. The main German weight is still massed against the British sector. The constant Allied air attacks have compelled German fighter bases to move back to the Paris area. Their troops in the line have never had effective air cover.

The Red Army is still driving forward on the whole 430 mile front from Lake Peipus to Pinsk. "The front is broken," says Moscow radio to-night. "Everywhere the Germans are faced by the threat of big and small encirclements." To-day the Russians have captured Pinsk, the fortified base in the Pripet Marshes and the railway junction of Volkovysk. East Prussia is in danger.



Daily Telegraph

THE RUSSIAN FRONT, FROM DVINSK TO LVOV

*Sunday, July 16th.*

Arezzo, pivot of the German central front in Italy, fell to the Eighth Army this morning.

The Russians have captured the great fortress of Grodno and broken the River Niemen line planned to defend East Prussia.

#### BURIED BY FLYING BOMBS

After seven hours' tunnelling rescue workers to-day brought out alive a whole family of four who had been buried when a flying bomb fell last night a few yards from their house. Other people are still trapped.

With begrimed face, a doctor was lowered three times into a cavity to attend the family—an aged woman, her son and daughter-in-law and a ten-weeks-old baby. The doctor, looking very tired, was still on the site after nine hours. "I have been up all night," he said. "I have not been able to get much sleep for three weeks, as I have been called out to these incidents one after the other. But this work must be done and I will do it."

A train in which soldiers were travelling stopped beside some houses in Southern England where a flying bomb had fallen a few hours previously. The passengers saw families sitting outside their wrecked homes and rescue workers digging for trapped victims. Cheers of encouragement went all along the train, and the men waved and shouted. The begrimed faces of the rescuers and homeless brightened as they heard the shouts, and they shouted back.

Preaching from the high altar of his bombed and battered church, a vicar in Southern England said to-day: "I want to pay my high gratitude to the civil defence services for arriving here so promptly and within a few minutes of our recent disaster. God bless them all."

*Tuesday, July 18th.*

Early this morning British and Canadian troops of the Second Army attacked and broke through into the area east of the Orne and south-east of Caen. The town of Vaucelles, lying on the south side of the Orne opposite Caen, is being cleared of the enemy, and hundreds of tanks are operating in the open country farther to the south-east and south. Heavy fighting continues. The colossal nature of the air

support was shown by the announcement that between 7,000 and 8,000 tons of bombs were dropped from 5.45 to 10 a.m.

St. Lô, the bitterly contested road junction, fell to the American First Army this afternoon, but the ruins are full of mines, booby-traps and snipers, and house-to-house fighting was still going on to-night.

Moscow announces a new Russian offensive, east of Lvov ; Marshal Koniev's forces have broken through on a 120-mile front, liberating Krasnoye, Brody, and many other places.

The Eighth Army crossed the River Arno yesterday.

General Tojo and the entire Japanese Cabinet have resigned.

### DEEP SHELTERS

Several new deep shelters have been opened in London to offer protection against flying-bombs, and opinions of them are sharply divided. Mr. Ronald Spurgeon, who with other members of his family, has been using one of the deep shelters for a week, said : "Very comfortable spring bunks are arranged along the walls on both sides, and the air is as fresh as in the open. We can buy a cup of tea for twopence without any trouble at four canteens. A part of the shelter is set aside as a recreation space, where children can play before settling down. With first-aid rooms and plenty of wash-rooms, the arrangements seem very good. In fact, I can't think of anything they are short of—except perhaps, shower-baths." A similar verdict was given by other people using the same shelter.

A more critical view was expressed about a shelter of the same type in another district, which came into use yesterday for the first time. "I found it very cold," said Mrs. Hilda Faulknor, mother of two young children. "I got the impression that the place was damp, and I didn't like leaving my bedding on it. It does not seem so spacious as a Tube. Although the place is simply vast, with lights stretching away as far as you can see, somehow you feel shut in." She added that she missed the "life" of the Tube station where she had previously sheltered.

### RUNNING THE GAUNTLET

Scudding through icy storms, dodging Nazi mines, prowling night fliers and the heavily-armed destroyers of Admiral Doenitz's Skagerrak Patrol, the fast blockade runners of Britain's Merchant Navy have "singed the Chancellor of

Germany's moustache " not once but a score of times to run vital war cargoes from Sweden to England. For months we have known of this suicide squadron's daring deeds and kept silent at the British Government's request ; now at last the story can be told, writes Ossian Goulding, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent in Stockholm.

The five little ships which during the winter and early spring maintained this " ghost service " between a United Kingdom East Coast port and the small Swedish harbour of Lysekill, a few miles north of Gothenburg, are : *Gay Corsair*, Captain R. Tanton ; *Gay Viking*, Captain H. Whitfield ; *Hopewell*, Captain D. Stokes ; *Mister Standfast*, Captain C. R. W. Holdsworth ; *Nonsuch*, Captain H. W. Jackson. One vessel of the flotilla, *Mister Standfast*, once failed to get through and was captured by German surface craft. Her master, Captain Holdsworth, lost his life. Apart from this, enemy action caused neither damage nor casualties.

The blockade-running was planned early last year by the Ministry of Supply when it was vitally important to bring to Britain certain types of material manufactured in Sweden—mainly high-grade ball and rubber bearings. It was decided that a fleet of special ships should be prepared, small, inconspicuous, and easily manœuvrable but designed to carry a large quantity of cargo in relation to their overall size. They had high speed and carried Oerlikon multiple guns to protect them from air attack. Each vessel carried a crew of about twenty, all volunteers. Many were youths under twenty. The average age of the whole lot was twenty-five, and all the masters were under forty. Comfort everywhere was sacrificed to cargo space.

Each voyage has involved a passage of the closely-guarded Skaggerak and Kattegat between enemy-occupied Norway and Denmark. The operation owed their success to a combination of careful planning, courage, bluff and grand seamanship, mixed—as the skippers will be the first to admit—with an element of good luck. Enthusiasm among the Swedes at seeing the Red Ensign once more in their waters was unmistakable.

*Wednesday, July 19th.*

A great tank battle is raging to-night over the plain of Caen, five miles south-east of what is left of the town, as Rommel fights desperately to contain the British break-through. The

breach has been widened eastwards to Troarn, and Vaucelles and Louvigny have been liberated.

Over 1,450 day bombers raided Germany to-day. Such raids are now too numerous to be chronicled.

Leghorn, the great port on the west coast of Italy, has fallen to the Americans, and Ancona on the east coast to the Poles. They were desperately defended.

Marshal Koniev's troops are within nine miles of Lvov, "the gateway to Berlin," and they have encircled four to five German divisions—up to 50,000 men—west of Brody, captured Sokol and have forced the Western, or Polish, Bug. This river is on the "Curzon Line" frontier of Poland recognised by the Russians.

The Russians have also crossed the Latvian border.

This evening Lancasters bombed a flying-bomb depôt in the mushroom-caves at Thiverny, north-east of Paris. Similar attacks made on July 15th on the Nucourt caves, with 12,000 lb. bombs, were very successful.

*Friday, July 21st.*

The Eighth Army and the American Fifth Army are pressing on towards Florence.

#### REVOLT IN GERMANY

The German home radio system interrupted all broadcasts at 6.20 p.m. yesterday. "Attention!" a sharp voice called into the microphone. "An important announcement! Attempt on the life of the Fuehrer! The Fuehrer is uninjured!" It was then announced that an attempt was made yesterday to assassinate Hitler "with high explosives." A number of his staff were injured. "Hitler received light burns and concussion, but no injuries. He at once began to work again. He then received Mussolini for a long meeting which had been previously arranged. Shortly after the attempt Marshal Goering came to Hitler. The would-be perpetrators of Hitler's assassination have escaped, but the police are on their trail."

Goebbels frustrated an attempt by High Command officers to get possession of the Government quarters of Berlin, announced the German forces radio to-night. Georg Schroeder, chief editor of the German Overseas News Agency, said, "A few generals and colonels stationed at important



key-points of the Home Army organised the attempt, which was carried out by Colonel Count Stauffenberg. Claiming that the Fuehrer was dead, the conspirators attempted to issue orders, which were nowhere obeyed. . . . The small clique of conspirators which had tried to sabotage the German war effort has been uncovered by this attempt and eliminated. . . . Reich Minister Heinrich Himmler has taken over the command of the Home Army from General Fromm. . . ."

There are world-wide speculations to-day as to what happened and what will be the effect on German morale at home and in the forces.

*Sunday, July 23rd.*

Operations in Normandy are still held up by bad weather, but counter-attacks have been repulsed. Mr. Churchill has just returned from a three-day tour of the front.

H.M. the King arrived in Naples to-day by R.A.F. transport plane, to visit the battlefields and to see British and Allied forces.

The Americans are now fighting in the streets of Pisa.

Pskov has been liberated by the Russians. Moscow announces that a Polish Committee of National Liberation (later denounced by the Polish Government in London) has been formed for the civil administration of liberated areas of Poland.

News is given of a successful raid by British and Greek troops on Symi Island in the Dodecanese.

Himmler has let loose the Gestapo on the greatest man-hunt even Nazi Germany has yet seen, according to reports from Stockholm, and there are many rumours of mass executions of anti-Hitler conspirators, of suicides, street fighting, and widespread sabotage. The revolt within the armed forces seems to have been on a considerable scale, but the real facts are of course unknown.

*Tuesday, July 25th.*

The comparative lull in Normandy was broken to-day by some of the fiercest fighting yet seen in France, when British, Canadian and American forces launched new attacks. The British-Canadian drive has gained between 1,000 and 2,500 yards south of Caen, on the road to Falaise. Americans broke into the German-defended areas on a wide front west

of the River Vire along the St. Lô-Periers road. There was a notable change in tactics from last week. The British attacked at 3.30 a.m.—two hours before first light—without preliminary air support. At 10 a.m., 3,000 aircraft—1,500 heavy bombers, 500 medium and 500 fighter-bombers supported by 500 fighters—attacked an area of 10 square miles of the German line west of St. Lô.

The Red Army is still driving on towards East Prussia, and farther south the great bastion and junction of Lublin has been captured.

Hitler's plan to Nazify the German Army following the revolt of generals was carried a step further yesterday when it was officially announced that the Hitler salute will henceforth be used by all ranks in place of the old military salute. To-day Hitler has issued a decree for the mobilisation under Goebbels of the last ounce of German strength. A vast comb-out of man-power is to be conducted throughout Germany, and satellite and occupied countries.

Flying bombs continue to arrive in London, though many are shot down before they can do so.

Nearly 3,000 tons of high explosives and incendiary bombs were dropped on Kiel, the great German naval base and Baltic port, by R.A.F. Bomber Command early yesterday morning. Last night Lancasters and Halifaxes of R.A.F. Bomber Command dropped over 30,000 heavy incendiaries, in addition to a great load of high-explosive bombs, on Stuttgart in a swift saturation attack which lasted only a quarter of an hour. At the same time Frankfurt and Aachen were bombed, Mosquitoes attacked Berlin with 4,000-'pounders in a five-minutes' attack, heavy bombers raided an oil dépôt at Donges, near St. Nazaire, and mines were laid in enemy waters. Twenty-three aircraft are missing.

Sabang, the important Japanese-held naval base at the entrance to the Malacca Straits, was largely destroyed this morning by warships of the Allied Eastern Fleet.

#### HEROES OF THE RAILWAY

"They could easily have left the train and sought shelter, but realising that if they did the whole train, which consisted of fifty-one wagons of explosives would have blown up, they risked their lives to minimise the effect of the fire." This epitaph on a railwayman who lost his life and tribute to his

companion, who was seriously injured, in averting a major munition train disaster appear in to-night's *Gazette*.

It recorded the award of the George Cross to Driver Benjamin Gimbert, forty-two, of Estover Road, March, and posthumously to Fireman James William Nightall, twenty-two, of Littleport. They were the engine crew of an ammunition train. As they were pulling into a Cambridgeshire station, Mr. Gimbert noticed that the wagon next the engine was on fire. Although he knew it contained explosives, Mr. Nightall leapt down and uncoupled the wagon from the rest of the train and returned to the footplate.

Driver Gimbert set the engine in motion, and as he approached a signal box he warned the signalman to stop any trains which were likely to be involved. Almost immediately the vehicle blew up. There is no doubt that if the whole train had become involved, as it would have been but for the gallant action of the men concerned, there would have been serious loss of life and property.

*Thursday, July 27th.*

At 4.44 a.m. to-day London had its thousandth air-raid "alert" since the war began.

American forces have broken through west of St. Lô. Yesterday they liberated Marigny and St. Gilles, to-day Camproud, Kessay and Perriers. Seven German divisions are threatened with encirclement. There are no changes in the British sector.

Marshal Stalin announced to-night the greatest list of Russian successes yet achieved in one day. Six great German bastions have been taken: Dvinsk and Rezekne, in Latvia; Shavli, in Lithuania; Bialystok, and Lvov, in Poland; Stanislavov, in the Carpathian foothills. The trap is closing rapidly on the Germans in the Baltic states.

Yesterday afternoon a reconnaissance pilot reported that Stuttgart was still burning from the R.A.F. raid on Tuesday night, when 27,000 incendiaries were dropped in fifteen minutes.

In a broadcast speech last night Goebbels said that the attempt on Hitler's life was made by means of a time-bomb in a suitcase, which Count Stauffenberg took to a staff conference. Goebbels also outlined his plans for providing new armies, and said that a new secret weapon is in production.



#### THE BARRAGE BEGINS

he great barrage that began its offensive on the Olen River a July noon, started in the night, before a big break. This in taking its artillery fire to north of view of the bridge, once it broke through, and finally.

(Continued on page 10)

MR. CHURCHILL NORMANDY

The Prime Minister, travelling in a jeep during his  
of cheerful the Normandy battle fronts, retains his air

(Photo: The Daily Herald)

*Friday, July 28th.*

Four more important German strongholds on the Eastern front have fallen to the Russians : Kovno, in Lithuania, Brest-Litovsk, Przemysl and Yaroslav. The approaches to East Prussia, Warsaw, Czechoslovakia and Germany itself are being cleared.

The German front west of St. Lô, has collapsed and American armoured spearheads have already reached Coutances.

#### AN AIRMAN WINS THE V.C.

A Catalina flying-boat captain has been posthumously awarded the V.C. He was Flight Lieut. David Ernest Hornell, aged thirty-four, No. 162 Squadron, R.C.A.F., of Mimico, near Toronto. Two of his crew who also died from exposure have been mentioned in despatches. They were Sergeant D. J. Scott, twenty-two, of Almont, Ontario, and Sergeant F. St. Laurent, of Quebec. Five survivors all receive decorations.

While patrolling near the Arctic Circle Flight Lieut. Hornell attacked a fully-surfaced U-boat, which was sighted travelling at high speed. The submarine opened up with anti-aircraft fire, which became increasingly fierce and accurate. The plane's starboard gun jammed, leaving only one gun effective.

Hits were obtained on and around the conning-tower of the U-boat, but two two foot holes appeared in the plane's starboard wing and another in the hull. Oil was pouring from the starboard engine which was on fire, as was the starboard wing. The petrol tanks were endangered. The plane was holed again and again and became difficult to control. Nevertheless, the captain pressed home his attack. He knew that with every moment the chances of escape for him and his gallant crew grew more slender. He brought his aircraft down very low and released his depth charges in a perfect straddle. The bows of the U-boat were lifted out of the water. It sank and the crew were seen in the sea.

By superhuman efforts at the controls Flight Lieut. Hornell contrived to gain a little height. The fire in the starboard wing had grown more intense. Then the burning engine fell off. The plight of aircraft and crew was now desperate. With the utmost coolness and despite the manifold dangers, the captain brought his plane down on the heavy swell.

Badly damaged and blazing furiously, the aircraft rapidly settled.

After ordeal by fire came ordeal by water. A dinghy was damaged, leaving only one serviceable, and it could not hold all the crew. So they took turns in the water for hours at a time, holding on to the sides.

An airborne lifeboat was dropped to them by another Catalina, but it fell some 500 yards down wind. The men struggled vainly to reach it. Flight Lieut. Hornell who throughout had encouraged them by his cheerfulness and inspiring leadership, proposed to swim to it, though he was then nearing exhaustion. He was with difficulty restrained.

The dramatic story, said the Air Ministry to-night, has been told by the survivors. Many of these fights between aircraft of R.A.F. Coastal Command and U-boats can never be recounted as they end in silence on both sides.

Flight Sergeant S. R. Cole, one of Flight Lieut. Hornell's men, said : " We had to throw overboard the food, paddles and other gear to make room in the dinghy. We kept only the water tin and a bailing bag. Flying Officer Campbell baled with Hornell's trousers." Nearly three hours after the attack a Catalina from a Norwegian squadron of R.A.F. Coastal Command appeared and circled above them for twelve-and-a-half hours. The Norwegians, who had summoned aid, counted thirty-five to forty bodies in the water three miles from the dinghy.

The airmen were picked up by a R.A.F. Air-Sea Rescue launch, and Flight-Lieut. Hornell died a quarter of an hour afterwards.

This is the first V.C. of this war to be awarded to a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force and the sixth to go to Canadians. The only previous V.C. awarded for anti-U-boat operations was conferred on Flying Officer Lt. A. Trigg, D.F.C., in November, 1943. He was lost with all his crew.

Following are the awards made to surviving members of Flight-Lieut. Hornell's crew : D.S.O.—Flying Officer Bernard Charles Denomy. D.F.C.—Flying Officers Graham Campbell and Sidney Edward Matheson. D.F.M.—Flight Sergeants I. Joseph Bodnoff and Sidney Reginald Cole. All belong to No. 162 Squadron, R.C.A.F. The citation says that they displayed a high degree of courage, discipline and devotion to duty. Each assisted the others to the utmost extent, unmindful of his own distress.

*Sunday, July 30th.*

The whole American line in Normandy is to-night surging forward towards the Caen-Avranches road across the base of the Cherbourg peninsula. At least 10,000 prisoners have been taken by the Americans since this offensive began. Caen is still the pivot.

British troops holding the Caumont sector in the middle of the Normandy front this morning attacked the German bulge created by the American offensive. The advance, led by 1,000 R.A.F. Lancasters and Halifaxes, sometimes bombing from 2,000 feet below heavy cloud, made gains of up to four miles on a seven-miles front. Famous British infantry units, supported by tanks, swarmed into the six-miles-wide valley south of Caumont against comparatively light resistance. Hundreds of guns battered the German positions among the tangled country, while as the sun broke through great fleets of medium, light and fighter-bombers kept up their attacks all day.

It is now revealed that pipe-lines from the beaches, extended as the battle moves forward, have been carrying petrol to the front lines since the early days of the invasion.

Prisoners say that Rommel was fatally wounded during an air-raid on Lisieux on July 17th.

The battle for Florence is reaching its climax.

## AUGUST 1944

*Tuesday, August 1st.*

The German High Command states that the whole front in Normandy "has been engulfed by the British and American offensive." Yesterday the Americans stormed Avranches, and Granville surrendered. To-day British troops entered Le Beny Bocage.

The Russians have reached Praga, a suburb of Warsaw on the east bank of the Vistula.

The First Canadian Army is now fighting in France.

The thirteenth-century town of Mont St. Michel is among the many places liberated. Three unarmed war correspondents (Cornelius Ryan of the *Daily Telegraph* being one of them) to-day demanded and secured the surrender of the small German garrison.



During July, R.A.F. Bomber Command dropped 57,500 tons of bombs over western Europe, and operated on thirty days and thirty-one nights. Mosquitoes raided Berlin on three nights. The U.S. Army Air Force also operated in great strength.

Flying bombs constituted the only enemy air action over the United Kingdom during July, the casualties being 2,441 killed and 7,107 injured.

The number of U-boats sunk during the month was substantially greater than the number of ships they sank.

*Wednesday, August 2nd.*

Mr. Churchill made his most optimistic speech of the war in the House of Commons to-day. "I no longer feel bound," he said, "to deny that victory may perhaps come soon. On every battle front the armies of Germany and Japan are recoiling. I am increasingly led to feel that the interval between the defeat of Hitler and the defeat of Japan will be shorter—perhaps much shorter than I had at one time supposed." He said that the latest news from Normandy "seems extremely good" and named as chief planner of the invasion Lieut.-General F. E. Morgan. He praised the Russian armies "who have done the main work of tearing the guts out of the German army," and the British Fourteenth Army in Burma.

Of the flying bombs he said that 5,340 have so far been launched against England, killing 4,735 people and injuring 14,000 more. About 17,000 houses have been totally destroyed, and about 800,000 damaged. Nearly 1,000,000 people have been assisted or encouraged to leave London. Others with no war duties should leave, because it is quite possible that the Germans will try long-range rockets with a heavier load of explosive.

"It is one of the main interests of Britain that a friendly France should regain her place among the major Powers," he said.

He expressed his hopes of a solution of the differences between the Russian and Polish Governments and welcomed the "friendly contact" between the Yugoslav Government and Marshal Tito.

The Allied advance in Normandy continues. Armoured columns, thrusting deep into Brittany, threaten Rennes and St. Malo. British troops have reached Vire.



Daily Telegraph

THE RUSSIAN FRONT, FROM NARVA TO CERNAUI

It is officially announced that nineteen Canadian prisoners-of-war were murdered in Normandy on June 8th, by Germans of the 12th S.S. Panzer Division who were infuriated by the prisoners' refusal to give information.

The Turkish Government has broken off diplomatic and economic relations with Germany.

The Finnish President has resigned and is succeeded by Marshal Mannerheim.

The Russians have reached the Gulf of Riga.

The Polish "underground" army in Warsaw has risen in open war against the Germans.

*Friday, August 4th.*

American troops swept into Rennes at 8.30 yesterday morning, writes Christopher Buckley, "and are already pursuing the Germans to the south. The city is blessedly almost undamaged. In the great central square, which has a gracious seventeenth century atmosphere about it, the population is frankly *en fête*. Everything seems to conspire to make this a day of liberation—the brilliant summer sunshine, pretty girls in light summer frocks festooned with flowers, young men of the resistance movement carrying their long-concealed rifles, and everywhere the Tricolour.

To-night the Americans had reached Chateaubriand, thirty-five miles from Nantes, and British tanks were entering Villers Bocage.

The King arrived home from Italy yesterday.

A particularly large number of flying bombs reached London yesterday morning.

South African troops of the Eighth Army, supported by British Guardsmen, fought their way into the outskirts of Florence early to-day. The Germans this morning blew up five of the six bridges within the city across the River Arno. Only the famous Ponte Vecchio, lined with its picturesque goldsmiths' and jewellers' shops was left standing, but it was blocked by demolitions. Medieval houses and other buildings were destroyed on both approaches to the Ponte Vecchio.

Besieged and burning Warsaw, hub of the German defence system in Poland, is under attack from within and without. While Marshal Rokossovsky's forces are battling six miles on the outskirts of the city, there is fierce fighting in the streets between Poles and Germans.

Hitler and Himmler are carrying out a full-scale purge of

anti-Nazi elements in the German Army, according to a German News Agency announcement to-night, which discloses how wide was the opposition within the Wehrmacht to the Fuehrer. A field-marshal, eight generals and thirteen other high-ranking officers have been expelled from the German Army as traitors. Some have already been shot, some are stated to have committed suicide, and the others are to be tried by a so-called "people's court."

In Burma the Allies have captured Myitkina after eighty days' fighting.

*Saturday, August 5th.*

The war in France has suddenly become a blitzkrieg. American tanks have reached Brest, the River Loire 40 miles south-west of Rennes, and Pontivy; Brittany is almost entirely cut off, and the great ports of Brest, Lorient and St. Nazaire are isolated. The R.A.F. has bombed the U-boat pens at Brest.

To-day 1,100 American Fortresses and Liberators bombed the oil refinery at Dollbergen, the oil storage depôt at Nienburg, factories at Bussing and Backau and aircraft works at Neustadt: a typical day's work.

Florence has been occupied by the Eighth Army.

The Russians have driven the Germans out of 130,000 square miles of territory in the past six weeks.

*Sunday, August 6th.*

Mayence and Laval have fallen to American armoured columns which are thrusting east towards Paris.

The Germans are still holding desperately in the central sector.

An enemy convoy of seven ships, including escorts, was intercepted by a British naval squadron off St. Nazaire to-day and completely destroyed.

Recent air attacks have destroyed fifty-six flying-bomb stores in northern France and damaged forty-four.

*Monday, August 7th.*

Yesterday the biggest enemy counter-attack yet launched in France, captured Mortain and threatened the eastern flank of the sensational American advance. But rocket-firing Typhoons came into action and accounted for most of the

135 panzers which were destroyed or damaged, and Mortain was recaptured.

"The hour of revenge has come," said General de Gaulle to-night.

The Germans are said to be preparing to evacuate France entirely, and to have withdrawn already some 80,000 of their female staff.

Furious fighting continues in Warsaw.

#### GESTAPO METHODS

Since I arrived here this morning I have heard story after story of Gestapo atrocities, writes Cornelius Ryan, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent from Rennes. I am writing in the students' quarters of Rennes University, which housed the Gestapo H.Q. for Brittany.

I have seen their cells in the basement. These cells measure 5 feet long, 4 feet wide and 5 feet high. There is no light or air and the whole place is dank. The prisoners lived here without food or water until they died from either starvation or torture.

One of these Frenchman showed me his wounds. He had two bullets fired through the palm of each hand and one fired across his chest, because they suspected him of being a member of the underground movement. The Gestapo beat this man until they grew tired.

American and British prisoners in the hospital less than 50 yards away watched the Gestapo as they daily brought in fresh victims. One R.A.M.C. captain told me the following story: "They brought over from their H.Q. a Frenchman whose condition was almost indescribable. He had been beaten each day for fifteen days. I could not help him, because he was too far gone—he died in my arms three hours later. He told me the whole story before he died, and he was as tough as nails and quite rational up to the end. First the Gestapo arrived at his house and thrashed him with a rubber-bound cosh. Later that night they arrived again and took him to their H.Q. He was stripped and thrown into one of those filthy cells. The next morning they commenced to work on him. Every two hours they beat him. The only reason they brought him here was that he was dying. A few days later another Frenchman was brought to the hospital in the same condition—he also died a few hours after admittance.

"The Gestapo favourite weapon, apparently, is the lash. This consists of a short handle with about twenty leather thongs loaded with lead shot tied to it. I picked up a weapon which weighed about four pounds. It was composed of a handle attached to which was a heavy iron spring encased in rubber two inches wide. This the Germans called an 'interrogation instrument.' "

"The women were treated in some cases worse than the men. They were burned with red-hot pokers, their nails were drawn and their bodies were maltreated in the most horrible fashion. We saw a lot of women being dragged by the hair across the road into that building—but we saw very few come out alive," said one soldier who had been in the hospital.

*Wednesday, August 9th.*

Canadian tanks have driven through the second defence line to within five miles of Falaise. British tanks and infantry, after smashing fierce panzer attacks against the bridgehead over the Orne north of Thury-Harcourt have attacked in turn. American spearheads, well past Le Mans, are reported by German radio to be eighty-seven miles from Paris. St. Malo has fallen after three days' fighting.

General Eisenhower has moved his H.Q. to France.

The number of mothers and children evacuated from London since the flying bombs began now totals about 267,000.

Field Marshal von Witzleben, four generals and three other German army officers, were hanged yesterday for their part in the plot against Hitler.

In a broadcast from Tokyo yesterday the new Japanese Prime Minister, General Koiso, spoke lugubriously about Japan's desperate plight and said that the utmost national effort must be made to avert disaster.

*Friday, August 11th.*

All day yesterday British, Canadian and American columns were racing east, south and south-west. To-day the Americans have swung north through Alençon and threaten to encircle the whole German Seventh Army. To-night the western column has crossed the Loire at Nantes. German communications are being bombed night and day, and all rail

and road bridges over the Seine west of Paris are now impassable.

Moscow announced to-night a new offensive in Estonia, near Pskov. But the Germans are holding the Red Army before Warsaw and are waging a battle of extermination against the Polish "underground" forces in Warsaw, who have appealed desperately for help.

The existence of a new Allied Commando force, known as Land Forces Adriatic, was disclosed in London to-day. It has already raided the Albanian coast.

Allied H.Q. in Italy announces that Mr. Churchill has arrived there.

*Sunday, August 13th.*

The Germans in Normandy are in full retreat. The remnants of six infantry and six armoured divisions are pouring out of the twelve mile escape gap between Falaise and Argentan, which is all that remains. Every available Allied plane, with perfect weather at last, is blasting their crowded convoys. The roads are choked as far as Paris.

The French Riviera has been heavily bombed for three days in succession.

Last night the R.A.F. dropped 1,300 tons of bombs on Brunswick in fifteen minutes. Flying bomb sites were also bombed once more.

The Russians are splitting the twenty to thirty German divisions trapped in the Baltic States by driving a wedge towards the sea from Pskov. In the past month 60,000 Germans have been killed on this front.

A B.U.P. report from Lublin describes the German "death factory" there, where more than 500,000 men, women and children were killed and cremated.

*Tuesday, August 15th.*

#### INVASION FROM THE SOUTH

At 8 a.m. to-day Allied forces landed at a number of points along 100 miles of the southern French coast between Nice and Marseilles.

The invasion force, consisting of British, American and French troops, was preceded by airborne landings and supported by vast fleets of warships and planes. Over 800 ships of all types took part in the operation and more than 14,000

men of the Mediterranean Air Force were in the air during the landings. An hour before the airborne troops were landed ton after ton of bombs was cascaded on the beach defences to knock out or render ineffective any invasion obstacles which had survived the attacks that had gone on for the previous fortnight. Late this afternoon the Allies were several miles inland. Men and tanks were pouring on to three separate beaches, with material of all kinds flooding in after them. Casualties are astonishingly small. The invaders have complete air superiority.

Mr. Churchill watched the invading force start.

"The army of France is in being again, fighting on its own soil," says General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, Allied C.-in-C., Mediterranean.

To-day 2,000 heavy bombers attacked airfields in Belgium, Holland and Germany.

East of Warsaw the Germans are counter-attacking heavily with some success.

*Wednesday, August 16th.*

To-night the Canadians have fought their way into Falaise, and the British into Flers, while the Americans drive inwards from west and south. Pilots reported barges gathered along the Seine, apparently to ferry troops across the river.

Seventh Army H.Q. in the south of France announce that the beach-head is now continuous and covers about 500 square miles, while reinforcements are still pouring ashore.

A general rising of the Maquis began in the Upper Savoy yesterday. In Brittany they have liberated many towns.

*Friday, August 18th.*

The Battle of Normandy has ended in a crushing and decisive Allied victory. The German power of offering effective resistance has gone. The German escape roads are becoming shambles under incessant attacks from the air.

The southern armies, under Lieut.-General Patch, are moving on Toulon. They have already taken 7,000 prisoners.

The Russians have reached the East Prussian border.

R.A.F. and South African night bombers from Southern Italy have been dropping weapons and ammunition to the Polish patriots since the start of the uprising in Warsaw at the beginning of August, it was stated at Allied H.Q., Italy, to-night.



In Italy, Eighth Army troops have crossed the Arno east of Florence.

*Sunday, August 20th.*

Troops of General Patton's American Third Army have reached the Seine above and below Paris. The Germans report that Allied airborne troops have established a bridge-head on the east bank of the river.

To-night the German commander of Paris announced a rising in the city, and drastic measures to suppress it.

Aix-en-Provence and Argentan in Normandy have been liberated to-day.

Grenoble is encircled by the French Forces of the Interior and Vichy has fallen, Algiers radio announced to-day. Virtually the whole of Upper Savoy is now in the hands of the patriot forces, and they have already freed eight departments, in Brittany, the Pyrenees, the Alps and the Massif Central. Thousands of weapons with which they are striking at the Germans were supplied to them by the R.A.F. Since Invasion Day Airborne Squadron aircraft have flown night after night, often in weather that has grounded other forces, deep into enemy occupied territory to supply the Maquis waiting at secret rendezvous. In July alone nearly 1,000 tons of material were dropped to the Maquis. Less than 1 per cent. of the aircraft were lost.

The Germans report to-night a "major Russian offensive" in northern Rumania. The battle of Warsaw continues.

The last Japanese troops have been driven out of India.

Yesterday and last night Super-Fortresses bombed the industrial area of Yawata, in Japan.

*Wednesday, August 23rd.*

#### PARIS IS FREE

"August 23rd, 1944—Paris is free." In these historic words General de Gaulle's provisional government announced the liberation of the French capital after it had been occupied by the Germans for more than four years—since June 14th, 1940. The city was freed of the invaders' yoke by the citizens themselves after four days' fighting, in which 50,000 armed patriots of the French Forces of the Interior and several hundred thousand unarmed civilians took part. General Koenig, the commander of the F.F.I., is Military Governor of Paris.



FRANCE, AND THE ALLIED OFFENSIVES

*Daily Telegraph*

When the order was given on Friday for a general insurrection in the French capital the Paris police, already on strike, seized the prefecture and held the Ile de la Cité against the Germans. By yesterday the patriots had occupied all the city's public buildings. To-day the people were marching through the streets, carrying French, British and American flags and singing *La Marseillaise*.

Marseilles, the second city of France, has also been liberated to-day. French troops have fought their way into Toulon. American forces from the Mediterranean have already reached Grenoble. French towns are being freed hourly. There are unofficial reports of new landings, at Bordeaux and near the Spanish frontier. Belgian troops of the Canadian First Army have reached Deauville. All German troops in the Falaise "pocket" have been killed or captured. Between the Touques River and the Seine another massacre of retreating Germans has begun.

Marshal Pétain is reported to have been taken to Germany.

#### A KILLING AREA

When I first heard the words, "killing area," employed by an officer two days ago, I little visualised the grim aptness of this phrase, writes Christopher Buckley, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent, from the tiny village of St. Lambert. To-day I blundered into the "killing area."

The village street is choked with tanks and guns and transport vehicles derelict and motionless. I counted sixteen tanks alone in its few hundred yards length. The carcasses of burnt-out and abandoned vehicles littered the side lanes. And beyond in the meadows was the largest car-park I ever recall having seen. As far as one chose to look in every direction the eye rested on cars and tanks and guns. They were all abandoned and the men beside them were dead.

How many were there? Three hundred? Four hundred? There cannot have been fewer. For all I know there were many hundreds more, for I wandered through the sun-bright meadows, among the gay blue butterflies and the smell of corruption and death, and I saw no end of them.

It was fairly easy to piece together what had happened. Two days ago the Germans had made their principal effort to break eastwards out of the Argentan noose. One column—not a small one—was directed towards the village of St. Lambert. That was what the British gunners had been

waiting for. That was why they had named this the "killing area." As the Germans entered the village yesterday a tornado of fire smote them. Most of the damage seems to have been done by artillery and mortars firing at comparatively short range, but there were several formidable bomb craters as well. Our guns opened up when the majority of the vehicles had crossed the bridge, but before they had had time to disperse.

A vast number had been destroyed, but many had been simply abandoned. I saw one Mark IV tank in perfect condition, several guns that also appeared undamaged, and numberless vehicles that could be driven again after a quarter of an hour's tinkering. There were enough rifles for a company. But the men who should have used them were not there. Those who were not dead had simply vanished—on foot and weaponless into the woods, one supposed.

There was equipment of all types. There were revolvers, typewriters, field-glasses. There were cases of finery destined to be carried back to some fraulein in the Reich, flowered dresses with the shop ticket still pinned on them. There were dozens of empty bottles of champagne (I noted the label on one of them—Veuve Clicquot 1928). And among all this were the motionless bodies of the men and the horses, sometimes tortured and twisted into every conceivable shape of agony, sometimes merely rigid with the waxen serenity of death.

Life mingled rather dreadfully and grotesquely with death here. Sleek-coated living horses picked their way among the dead. A ridiculous little dachshund padded down the village street, strangely surviving among this immense catastrophe of armour. A large black rabbit, very tame, frisked about among the Bren carriers. And by the side of an abandoned "people's car" I saw a tiny kitten asleep on an open and bloodstained map of Southern France. Can it be wondered if I describe this battlefield as a surrealist's nightmare?

St. Lambert should be dedicated to Hitler and the Nazi party. There had been rape and pillaging in that village when the Germans were last there. In that final and total destruction, in those acres of meadowland strewn with the wreckage of a beaten army, one may see the fruits of their creed of destruction. If they require a monument there is none better.

## RUMANIA SURRENDERS

Bucharest radio broke into its ordinary programmes to-night, August 23rd, to broadcast continually for forty-five minutes a proclamation by King Michael, declaring that a peace offer by Russia, Great Britain and the United States had been accepted and that Rumania would now fight on the side of the United Nations. The Antonescu Government has resigned. General Senateacu is Premier. The Rumanians have apparently given the Germans no warning. Many German troops are in the country, and German H.Q. staffs in Bucharest.

Rumania attacked Russia with the Germans on June 22nd, 1941. Great Britain declared war on Rumania on December 7th, 1941, and the United States on December 12th.

The strategical and political effect of Rumania's capitulation will be great. Bulgaria cannot long hold out, and German troops in Bulgaria and Greece are in danger of being cut off. And Rumania's oil will soon be lost to Hitler—his main source of supply.

The great hope is dawning in all the Allied countries, and many more, that Germany may be defeated this year.

*Thursday, August 24th.*

German guns are shelling Paris. American tanks are reported to have reached the suburbs. The Second French Armoured Division is advancing on the city to assist the F.F.I. in ousting the last remaining Germans.

In the south over 6,000 square miles have now been liberated, and Allied tanks have reached the Swiss frontier.

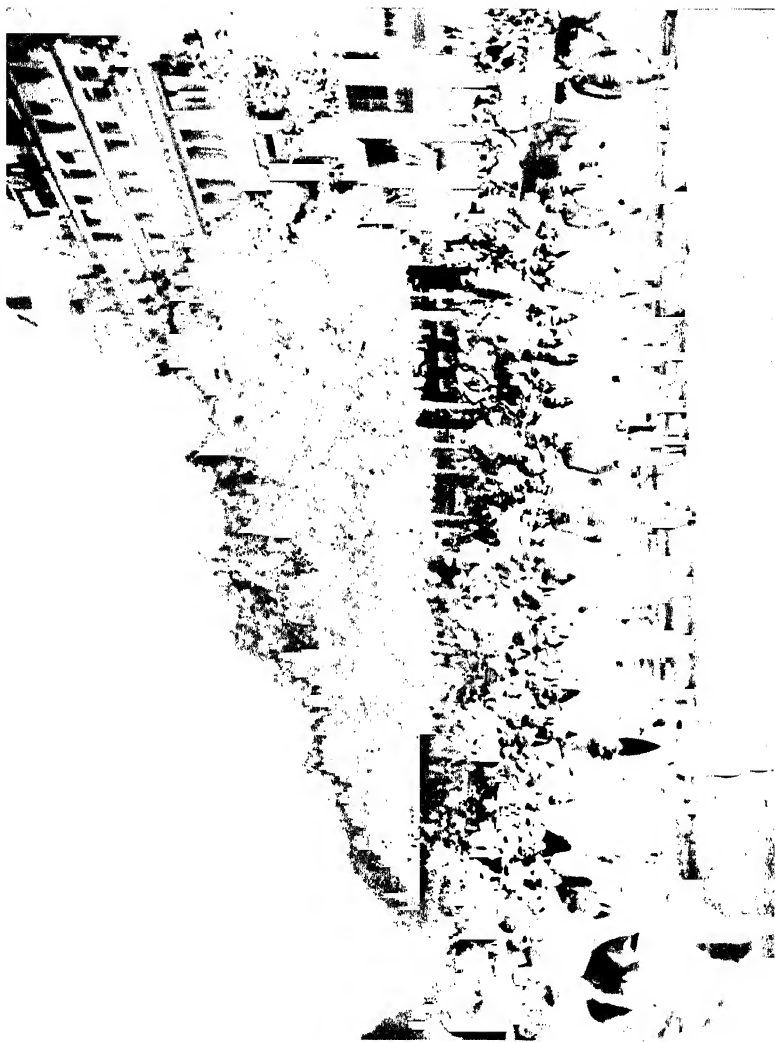
In the north the Germans are struggling to ferry the remnants of their armies across the Seine, under incessant bombing.

The King has sent his congratulations to General de Gaulle and General Eisenhower.

Bulgaria is suing for peace.

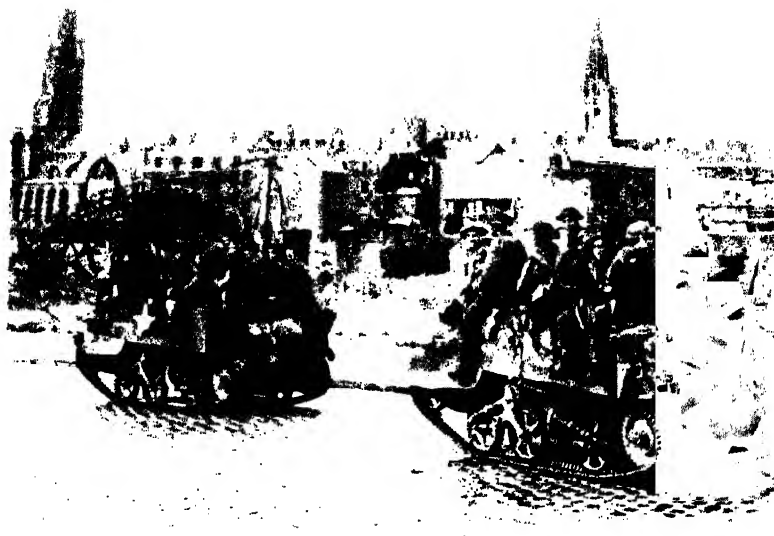
The R.A.F. is using a new fire-bomb, weighing 30-lbs. and containing methane in petrol. It emits a jet of flame fifteen feet long.

The Air Ministry announces that since flying bombs appeared in mid-June, about 7,250 have been launched against England—2,000 of them this month.



GENERAL  
DE GAULLE  
IN  
PARIS

General de Gaulle passed on foot along the Champs Elysees among wildly cheering crowds, from the Arc de Triomphe to the Place de la Concorde, in celebration of the liberation of Paris. (Photo: Associated Press)



#### THE NEW ROAD THROUGH THE RUINS

*Above:* This sweep of road in Normandy was made with amazing speed by Canadian engineers to take Allied traffic of all weights through to the front lines.

(Photo: Associated Press)

#### CANADIANS ENTER ROUEN

*Below:* Infantry carriers sweep along the approach to the city with the majestic cathedral in the background.

(Photo: P. N. A.)

## ONE-EYED RESCUER

When a flying-bomb fell on a suburban street in Southern England early yesterday, Eddie Hall, a one-eyed merchant seaman pensioner, left a concrete surface shelter to answer a woman's call for help. He is almost blind, but he probed his way through the dust and darkness to a pile of wreckage, guided by the woman's cries. Some houses in the street were just débris, with people in or under the ruins.

Using a torch, he burrowed under the heap. In the remnants of a back room, under a kitchen table, he found Mrs. Stevens, a soldier's wife, and her five young children. He brought them all to safety. Then he went into the next house and rescued a man and his wife who were pinioned in their beds by fallen rafters. Out of the people who lost their homes four were killed—two mothers and two babies.

Children were among the killed and injured in a block of council flats which received a direct hit early in the morning. Twelve hours afterwards a number of people had been rescued, but some were still missing. The casualties included about eight dead and others seriously injured.

*Friday, August 25th.*

Rumania declares war on Germany.

Finland asks Moscow to receive a peace delegation.

Very heavy bombing of German oil plants and munition factories continues day and night. Such raids are now too numerous to be recorded.

## DE GAULLE ENTERS PARIS

After a day and a night of heavy fighting the Second French Armoured Division entered Paris during the night, and General Leclerc with his headquarters tanks, entered by the Porte D'Orleans at 9.55 a.m. They were greeted by crowds almost mad with joy.

The German commander surrendered, but sporadic fighting continued, and astonishing scenes were witnessed at one stage.

Armoured cars, Senegalese and French troops were advancing along the Champs Elysées from the Place de la Concorde, which had only recently been cleared of enemy forces. A black mass of people thronged the street. Allied flags were hoisted on all buildings. American tanks, fire



engines and motor vehicles of all descriptions went racing down the avenue. Crowds cheered the vehicles of the Fourth American Division deliriously and the tanks of General Leclerc's division and formations of all arms.

Suddenly a volley of fire raked the avenue, coming from the Place de l'Etoile, in which stands the Arc de Triomphe and the French Unknown Warrior's Tomb. In a moment the crowds melted away, except for the many dead and wounded.

The armoured cars and tanks swung round and took up firing positions. Machine-guns were set up. Where a moment ago the festive crowd was singing the Marseillaise, soldiers charged to engage the enemy entrenched around the Etoile.

General de Gaulle entered the liberated city at 7 p.m. and was received at the Prefecture of Police and at the Hôtel de Ville, the Town Hall, by the new Prefect. In a brief speech he said : " I wish simply and from the bottom of my heart to say to you, ' Vive Paris.' "

### *Saturday, August 26th.*

French troops have liberated Tarascon and Avignon.

Allied troops have reached the River Marne.

British troops in France and Burma are now using a new flame gun, one of the most devastating weapons ever devised. One type is mounted on a Churchill tank and known as the Churchill crocodile.

German losses in Bessarabia and Rumania have been very heavy.

### BULGARIA SURRENDERS

Bulgaria has announced her withdrawal from the war, and German troops in Bulgaria are to be disarmed. Britain and U.S.A. demand that she declare war on Germany.

### *Sunday, August 27th.*

The Russians have captured Galatz, with 10,000 prisoners and broken through the Galatz Gap, on the road to the Rumanian oilfields.

Koenigsberg, capital of East Prussia, was set ablaze last night in a very heavy ten-minute raid by the R.A.F.

*Tuesday, August 29th.*

The Allied armies in France are still sweeping victoriously forward. American troops are within fifty miles of the Belgian frontier. The British are far beyond the Seine. Brest still holds out, but the great naval base of Toulon has been cleared of the enemy. Soissons, Vitry and Chalons have been liberated.

In Italy the Eighth Army has made a further advance towards the Gothic Line.

Constanza, the important Rumanian oil-port and German naval base on the Black Sea has fallen to a combined land and naval attack, announces Marshal Stalin to-night.

Mr. Churchill arrived home from Italy to-day.

*Wednesday, August 30th.*

The Russians to-day captured Ploesti, the centre of Rumanian oil production, which supplied Germany with a third of her military oil.

Soviet columns are pushing through the Eastern Carpathian passes into Hungary.

A Bulgarian peace delegation has arrived in Cairo.

In France the British are now within eight miles of the River Somme. Rheims has been liberated. The Germans say they have evacuated Rouen after destroying the port installations. The flying bomb depôt at Beauvais has been captured.

General Eisenhower has taken command of the Allied armies in the south as well as the north of France. The operational plans of the whole northern campaign were made by General Montgomery.

In Italy the whole Allied front is moving forward.

*Thursday, August 31st.*

British forces have liberated Amiens and crossed the Somme. Canadians have occupied Rouen. American troops are over the Meuse and have reached Sedan, and in the south they have liberated Valence and Nice. The F.F.I. have liberated Bordeaux.

Russian forces have entered Bucharest.

During August air-raid casualties in the United Kingdom were 1,103 killed, 2,921 injured.

In the first eighty-one days of the Allied invasion of northern France, from June 6th to August 25th, the equivalent of twenty German infantry and five panzer divisions were destroyed ; four other divisions were trapped, twelve infantry and six panzer divisions badly cut up, more than 400,000 Germans were casualties, including 200,000 taken prisoner ; 3,545 enemy planes destroyed and 300 ships sunk.

## SEPTEMBER 1944

*Friday, September 1st.*

Arras has been liberated by British troops, Dieppe by Canadians, and Verdun by Americans. In the south American troops have crossed the Italian frontier at Ventimiglia. The Eighth Army has broken into the Gothic Line.

Front-line towns in "Hell-fire" corner on the coast of South-East England, this morning received one of the heaviest bombardments of the war from German coastal guns mounted on the French coast between Boulogne and Calais. More than 150 shells, it is estimated, were fired.

The Nazis are training guerrillas to continue resistance after the Allies have occupied Germany.

### FIELD-MARSHAL MONTGOMERY

The following announcement was made last night by the War Office : "The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the promotion of General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, K.C.B., D.S.O. (late the Royal Warwickshire Regiment), to be Field-Marshal supernumerary to establishment as from September 1st, 1944."

*Saturday, September 2nd.*

British tanks are in Tournai, the first Belgian town to be liberated, and other Allied spearheads have entered Belgium. Maubeuge, Lens, Vimy Ridge, Douai, St. Pol and St. Valery are among other towns liberated.

The Eighth Army has broken through the Gothic Line on a 20-mile front west of Pesaro.

The Russians have reached the Bulgarian frontier between the Danube and the Black Sea.

At the Finnish Government's request the Germans are to withdraw from Finland.

*Sunday, September 3rd.*

#### BRUSSELS IS FREE

We chased the Germans back into Brussels this evening and we chased them out at the other side, writes Christopher Buckley, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent. It was the climax of a day in which the British armoured forces advanced 73 miles between sunrise and sunset—fighting four short but brisk actions on the way.

There is no language adequate to express the enthusiasm with which a British uniform is greeted during these wonderful days. Whether it is Bayeux or Rennes, Paris or Brussels, the essential reception is the same—warm, spontaneous and generous. Britain has never been more admired on the Continent—not even when she fought her lone and apparently hopeless battle in 1940. And we can retain this admiration if we choose.

The tempo of excitement quickened in the old familiar manner as we began to pass into the outskirts of the capital. Five tanks, our own car, and then a mass of tanks, armoured cars, Bren carriers and ambulances—the vanguard, but only the vanguard, of a mighty army. The people were fighting for places on the tanks and on the cars as we entered from the south ; they tossed bouquets of flowers and baskets of fruit to the soldiers.

A red glare on our left, and we saw that the Palais de Justice, perhaps the most spectacular building in Brussels was in flames. We were told it had been set on fire by the Germans before their departure at about two o'clock this afternoon. (It was now seven o'clock).

A hardly distinguishable road intersection some hundred yards ahead grew deliriously bright with the gay sparkle of tracer bullets. For a moment it looked as though the Germans were going to attempt a real fighting resistance in the city. But street fighting is a pastime which may be indulged in with success in one's own cities, but scarcely ever in those of a hostile nation—as the Germans realised in Paris. And so the Germans withdrew without very seriously opposing our penetration.

It did not prove difficult to discover the Hotel Metropole. A bright flame led us there and in the great square in front of it the crowd had already begun to burn Hitler in effigy. It was a remarkable spectacle, this saturnalia of liberation. Darkness had fallen and the crowd had now swollen to some thousands. They were dancing, singing and embracing in the flickering and uncertain light of the bonfire.

*Monday, September 4th.*

Racing on fifty miles beyond Brussels, British armoured forces have smashed across the Dutch frontier and reached the town of Breda, twelve miles inside the border north-east of Antwerp. This dramatic news was given late to-night in a broadcast to the Dutch people by their Premier, Dr. Gerbrandy.

Shortly before midnight the capture of Antwerp, Belgium's greatest port and fortress on the estuary of the Scheldt and within fifteen miles of the Dutch frontier, was announced from Shaef. It has been captured almost intact ; the speed of the Allied advance took the Germans completely by surprise, and Belgian patriots removed their demolition charges. The commander in Antwerp, General Graf von Stolberg, was taken prisoner by four British privates while he was sitting at lunch. Germans and "collaborators" have been shut up by the Belgians in the empty lion-cages of Antwerp zoo.

In a week the British Second Army has thus advanced 200 miles from the Seine to the Scheldt, smashing across the Somme, freeing the Belgian capital and maintaining an average speed of nearly 30 miles a day. As a result the flying-bomb coast has been neutralised, the Pas de Calais area cut off and a large force of Germans—possibly upwards of 100,000—encircled.

Berlin reports "ferocious" battles on an arc covering Boulogne and Calais as British, Canadian and Polish forces converge relentlessly from south and east.

Lille, Louvain, Malines, Montreuil, Etaples and many other towns have been liberated.

Many of the flying-bomb sites have now been put out of action. The biggest group, numbering well over 100, was concentrated in front of Amiens, covering an area of twenty to thirty square miles. By midnight last night the flying-bomb lull in Southern England had lasted fifty-five hours. There had

been no Alert in London since Thursday evening. For the first time since June 16th the German communiqué yesterday omitted any mention of V1. For seventy-eight days it had contained the phrase "London was under heavy V1 fire."

During last week the enemy launched some 370 flying bombs against this country, making a total of approximately 8,070 robots launched since the attacks began.

A torrent of lighted petrol flowed at 1,000 feet a minute down a hillside, threatening a village in South-West England, when a storage tank for aviation petrol was fractured during an air raid.

For their "admirable firemanship" in controlling and eventually extinguishing the fire after fighting it for twenty-one hours under conditions of great danger, officers and men of the National Fire Service, Area 19, have been commended by Mr. Morrison, the Home Secretary. The officers named are : Fire Force Commander G. Drury, Divisional Officer H. D. Cassini and Column Officer E. Rayns.

#### *Tuesday, September 5th.*

The German Nineteenth Army is now in headlong flight up the Saone Valley towards Germany. The Canadians are fighting their way into Boulogne, the Poles are only 20 miles from Calais, and the Americans have broken into Luxembourg. In Belgium American forces have liberated Namur and Charleroi and linked up with the British.

Russia has declared war on Bulgaria.

Sweden and Argentina announce that they will not give asylum to Axis "war criminals."

#### *Wednesday, September 6th.*

The Canadians have reached the sea on either side of Calais, which is on fire. Ghent, Courtrai and Armentières are liberated. Americans have crossed the Moselle and the Meuse. French troops have taken Châlon-sur-Saône.

M. Masaryk announces that Slovak patriots are in open revolt.

The Russians have entered Yugoslavia and reached Kladovo.

It is announced that carrier-borne aircraft have recently made several attacks on the German battleship *Admiral von Tirpitz* in Alten Fiord, Northern Norway, and other targets

in the neighbourhood. Hits on the *Tirpitz* are claimed, but smoke screens made it impossible to observe results.

### LIGHTS AGAIN !

The first important relaxations of war-time restrictions are announced to-night : Black-out to be relaxed, and modified street lighting to be introduced from September 17th, when Double Summer-time ends. Except during air-raid warning periods windows need no longer be blacked out but only "dimmed out" by the use of ordinary curtains. Fire watching from next Tuesday to be suspended by day and retained by night only in London and South-East England. Whole-time Civil Defence personnel to be released for other war work. Home Guard to be on a voluntary basis, compulsory drills being discontinued, from next Monday, September 11th.

*Thursday, September 7th.*

Allied armies closing up to the German frontier along a 225-mile arc to-day captured Sedan. American forces are driving towards Germany through the Ardennes.

Although further advances have been made into Belgium and on the Moselle front, the pace has slowed, for two reasons : Resistance is stiffening while the Germans fight for time to prepare the defence of the Siegfried Line. The Allies, 400 miles from Cherbourg, their biggest supply port, are building up strength for the assault on the Reich. The second factor gives special importance to the struggle for possession of the Channel ports of Le Havre, Boulogne and Calais, obstinately contested by the beleaguered German garrisons. The Canadian First Army, in the worst weather since the invasion, is preparing to drive east to the Scheldt and to besiege Dunkirk, Ostend and Zeebrugge if the Germans try to hold these ports.

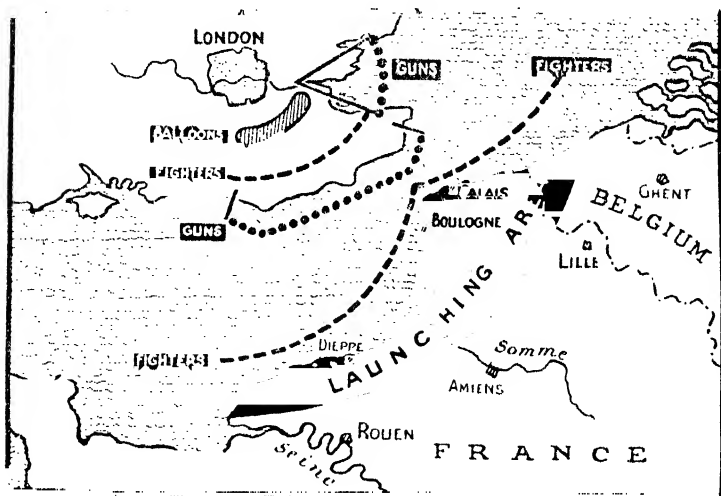
Official evacuations from London have been suspended.

### THE DEFEAT OF THE FLYING BOMBS

The battle against the flying bomb is officially regarded as over, except possibly for a few last shots, so it was stated to-day by Mr. Duncan Sandys,\* M.P., Chairman of the

\* Mr. Sandys' account is here much abridged but it is given almost entirely in his own words as reported in the *Daily Telegraph* on September 8th.

War Cabinet Committee on operational counter measures against the flying bomb. He gave a very full report of the battle at a remarkable conference at the Ministry of Information, when Mr. Brendan Bracken, Ministry of Information, presided, and a great array of British and American Air Force and Army officers attended, including General Pile, G.O.C.-in-C., Anti-Aircraft Command, Air-Marshal Sir Roderick M. Hill, Commanding the Air Defence of Great Britain, and



*Daily Telegraph*

#### THE DEFEAT OF THE FLYING-BOMBS

Air Vice-Marshal W. C. C. Gell, Commanding Balloon Command.

Mr. Sandys said that this battle against the flying bomb has been going on now for eighteen months. In April, 1943, reports from secret agents in Germany suggested that a long-range bombardment weapon of novel type was being developed, on the Baltic coast, and early in May reconnaissance photographs showed that a large experimental station of peculiar type had been erected on the Baltic island of Peenemunde. Later photographs showed flying bombs on launching ramps, and last November it was discovered that the Germans were building similar ramps along the



French coast from Calais to Cherbourg—all pointed towards London.

"The British and American air forces started attacking these flying-bomb sites last December and continued incessantly throughout the winter and spring until every one of them was destroyed. The enemy tried to repair them. As they were repaired, they were bombed again.

"Heavy air attacks were kept up all through the winter. In the end, the Germans abandoned these launching sites altogether and started, round about last March, constructing an entirely new series of firing points, so thoroughly camouflaged that it was practically impossible to detect them on air photographs until they had actually fired.

"By this time our Intelligence services had pieced together sufficient information about Hitler's secret V1 to enable us to go ahead with detailed arrangements for the defence of London. The plan provided for three defence belts: a balloon barrage just outside London; a gun belt beyond that, and beyond that again a fighter zone.

"The attack started on D.6—six days after the landings in France. . . . During the first month fighters, guns and balloons together brought down some 40 per cent. of the bombs launched.

"There were several awkward features about the flying bomb attack. The bomb flew at a very high speed—between 350 and 400 miles per hour. In an attempt to saturate our defences the enemy, to an increasing extent, launched his bombs in salvos. He also concentrated the weight of the attack in periods of cloudy weather which restricted the operation of our fighters. On certain dull days as many as 200 flying bombs were launched within the twenty-four hours. The bombs came in at an average of 2,300 feet, rather too low to get the best results from the heavy guns and rather on the high side for the 40 mm. and 20 mm. light guns. . . .

"Originally we had deployed some 500 balloons. However, when it was seen that the bombs were consistently flying low the barrage was rapidly thickened to nearly 2,000. The balloons were, of course, the last line of defence. Nevertheless, they made a substantial contribution. Of the bombs which entered the barrage area nearly 15 per cent. were brought down. Balloon Command have been waiting since the start of the war to show what they could do. The flying bombs gave them their opportunity. The saving of life and

property by the balloons during the last two and a half months has by itself fully repaid the effort in man-power and material which has been devoted to this form of defence.

"The gun belt, which stretched, roughly, from Maidstone to East Grinstead, had been sited as far inland as possible so as to reduce to a minimum the length of front needed to screen London. . . .

"About the middle of July it was decided to take the bold step of moving the entire anti-aircraft belt down to the coast, so that the guns should get an uninterrupted field of view. . . . At the same time arrangements were made to replace all the heavy mobile 3·7's by static guns. . . . In the first week after the re-deployment the guns shot down 17 per cent. of the bombs which entered the gun belt ; in the second week, 24 per cent. ; in the third, 27 per cent. ; in the fourth, 40 per cent. ; in the fifth, 55 per cent. ; in the sixth, 60 per cent. ; and in the last week, 74 per cent.

"Since the guns were sited on the coast a high proportion of the bombs destroyed was brought down harmlessly into the sea. In fact, during the last fortnight only 45 per cent. of the bombs launched got across the English coast, as against 75 per cent. in June.

"Owing to its small size, tough construction and great speed, the flying bomb is a very difficult target. In destroying such a high proportion our anti-aircraft gunners have, therefore, achieved a truly remarkable success. The anti-aircraft defences have been in action day and night during the last two and a half months. The people of London owe much to the men and women of Anti-Aircraft Command and, in particular, to General Pile, to whose energy and personal leadership these achievements are in large measure due.

"During the first few weeks of the flying-bomb attacks, the fighters operated in a single zone stretching over sea and land from off the French coast right up to the gun belt. During this period the fighters shot down over 1,000 flying bombs, nearly 30 per cent. of the number launched.

"When the guns were re-deployed along the coast, the fighter zone was divided into two parts—one over the sea and the other between the gun belt and the balloon barrage. . . . Only our fastest planes possess the high speed needed to overtake the bomb in level flight. The other types had to dive from several thousand feet above. The problem of exactly hitting off the correct angle of dive was a very difficult

one and could only be mastered with experience. It was necessary to maintain constant standing patrols over land and sea throughout the twenty-four hours, and this, of course, placed a great strain upon both pilots and machines.

"In daylight pilots had the greatest difficulty in spotting the bombs. In the dark it was, of course, easy enough to spot the flaming tail many miles away. But to bring down the bomb the pilot must fire his guns at a range of about 300 yards. If he fires when too far away he probably will not destroy the bomb. If he fires when he is too near the bomb may blow up and destroy him. By night it is very difficult, indeed, for the pilot to estimate how far away he is from the bright light of the jet. . . . Our scientists gave much attention to this problem. Experiments were carried out with various elaborate radio equipments. Meanwhile, Professor Sir Thomas Merton produced a simple and ingenious range-finder which proved to be the complete answer. It was so simple that the whole device cost little more than one shilling.

"In the last two-and-a-half months it has been unusually wet and cloudy. This has made the work of the fighters more difficult. Nevertheless, since the start our fighter aircraft have brought down over 1,900 flying bombs. This is a very fine achievement, of which Air-Marshal Sir Roderic Hill and Fighter Command have good reason to be proud.

"Hitler will be painfully disillusioned, if he is still capable of disillusionment, when he hears how well our fighters have done. Some time ago a special trial was arranged for him in the Baltic. A German fighter ace flying a captured Spitfire demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Fuehrer that British fighters did not possess the speed necessary to intercept the flying bomb. They reckoned without the increased efficiency of our latest types and overlooked the superior skill and resource of our pilots.

"During the eighty days of the bombardment the enemy has launched over 8,000 bombs—that is to say, about 100 a day. Of these some 2,300 (20 per cent.) got through into the London region. . . . This is, of course, an average over the whole period. In the first week about 33 per cent. were brought down ; by the end of the period some 70 per cent. of the bombs launched were being brought down by the defences and only 9 per cent. were reaching London. The record bag was on August 28th. On that day, out of 101

bombs which approached our coast, ninety-seven were brought down by the defences and only four got through to London.

“At the beginning there was on an average one death for every bomb launched. At the end, three bombs had to be launched to kill one person.

“During five days in July a light scale attack was made upon Portsmouth and Southampton. However, the great majority of the bombs fell in the sea or in open country. The weapon was clearly not accurate enough to be used against targets of this size. During the rest of the time the attack was aimed at the unique target of London. About 92 per cent. of all the fatal casualties occurred in the London region.

“Although many hundreds of bombs were shot down by the guns along the South Coast, only eleven of these fell in built-up areas. The understanding and restraint of the people living inside various defence zones in Kent, Sussex and Surrey is deserving of great praise. By their readiness to accept their share of London's dangers, the people of ‘Bomb Alley’ played a notable part in keeping down the overall casualties.

“Of the 8,000 bombs launched throughout the eighty days’ attack, it is estimated that at least 3,500 fell in Kent and Sussex. The majority were shot down over the Ashford area, Battle and Tunbridge Wells almost tied for second place. Croydon was the worst-hit London borough during the battle. It had eight bombs in one day and fifteen during one week-end. Total casualties were 211.

“After Croydon were Wandsworth, Lewisham, Camberwell, Woolwich, Greenwich, Beckenham, Lambeth, Orpington, Coulsdon and Purley, West Ham, Chislehurst and Mitcham. Not a single London borough escaped. At least one bomb fell in each. London had 407 Alerts during the battle of the flying bomb. They began on June 13th and ended at 5.13 p.m. on August 31st.

“I am very glad to have the opportunity of expressing formally on behalf of His Majesty's Government our appreciation of the help which our American Allies have given us in the battle against the flying bomb. Some of the very latest American equipment was used. This was ordered from America earlier in the year, when the necessary priority was accorded by the President in response to a personal request by the Prime Minister.

"The biggest American contribution has, however, been in offensive air operations. In partnership with the R.A.F., the American Air Forces, under the command of General Spaatz, have been pounding flying-bomb targets in France and Germany for a whole year past. The British and American Air Forces have together lost nearly 450 aircraft, involving a loss of approximately 2,900 pilots and air-crew.

"Bombing cannot, of course, be separated from Intelligence. For example, in the middle of June, our agents discovered that the famous People's Car Factory near Hanover was, in fact, one of the main assembly plants for the flying bomb. Our bombers were sent out and the factory was totally destroyed. . . .

"Large stocks of flying bombs were stored in tunnels and caves not far from Paris, and this was reported to us by agents. Bombing attacks were most successful. Many of the tunnel entrances were blocked. In some cases our great 12,000-pounders actually pushed in the roof of the caves, which subsided on to the flying bombs and buried them.

"On one occasion a train loaded with some 200 flying bombs stopped at a marshalling yard in the north of France. Information was passed back to England in time for our bombers to go out and blow up the train before it could move on.

"If the flying-bomb attacks had been launched from the original sites during last winter, as was planned by the Germans, the rate of fire would have been very much heavier, the bombardment would have lasted many months longer, and the defences, during the first part of the period, would have been far less effective. The visitation which London has so bravely endured, has been painful enough. Had it not been for the vigilance of our Intelligence Services, the unrelenting efforts of the British and American Air Forces, and the effectiveness of the defences, London's ordeal might well have been many times more severe."

Dealing with the difficulty of finding the new type of site, Mr. Sandys said: "An intelligence officer we sent to Cherbourg looked all over the place. Eventually he pitched his camp in a field and was on the point of reporting that he could not find them, when he kicked up a loose bit of grass and found a rail. He was standing on a site all the time."

Further facts given by Mr. Sandys in answer to questions were: "The explosive in V.1 weighed a little less than one

ton. At the start it was a low-grade explosive, but at the finish a high-grade type was being used which gave greater blast effect. That was why some people thought it was a different bomb." It was estimated that a flying bomb cost about one-twelfth as much as a fighter. One American battery shot down 650. If certain areas in South London got so many, this was due to the tendency of the bombs to fall short. "

General Pile said that guns along the South-East Coast were the biggest concentration Anti-Aircraft Command had ever had in one place. Eventually there were 800 heavy and nearly 2,000 light guns, and twenty American batteries under his command. Air-Marshal Sir Roderic Hill said that the machines used by Air Defence of Great Britain were the Tempest, Mustang and latest Spitfire. The finest "bag" for one pilot was just over sixty. This was achieved by Squadron-Leader J. Berry, D.F.C., in a Tempest.

Congratulations on their part in a notable victory have been sent by the Air Council to Air Defence of Great Britain, the Allied Expeditionary Air Force, Anti-Aircraft Command, R.A.F. Bomber Command and United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe.

### *Friday, September 8th.*

Ostend and Liège have been occupied. Tanks of the British Second Army have crossed the Albert Canal and are 23 miles from the German frontier.

In the Adriatic sector of the Italian front the Eighth Army's advance is held up by determined counter-attacks.

Bulgaria declared war on Germany yesterday. The Red Army has reached Varna without encountering resistance.

### V.C. REPLACES D.C.M.

The award of two Victoria Crosses was announced in last night's *London Gazette*. The recipients are : C.S.M. Peter Harold Wright, Coldstream Guards, of Wenhaston, Suffolk, and Rifleman Ganju Lama, Seventh Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army.

C.S.M. Wright was awarded the D.C.M. in January last year. The King has now awarded him the V.C. for these acts and cancelled the D.C.M. This is the first time, an

official at the War Office stated yesterday, that such a substitution has been made.

On September 25th, 1943, the citation says, the Third Battalion, Coldstream Guards attacked the steep, wooded Pagliarolli hill near Salerno. Before it reached the crest the right-hand company was held up by heavy machine-gun and mortar fire. All the officers became casualties. C.S.M. Wright took charge. He crawled forward by himself and found that three machine-gun posts were holding up the advance. He collected a section and put it into a position where it could give covering fire. Single-handed, he then attacked each post in turn with hand grenades and bayonet. He silenced each one. The objective was gained and consolidated. Soon afterwards a counter-attack was beaten off. Later he brought up extra ammunition and distributed it.

"It is due to this warrant officer's superb disregard of the enemy's fire, his magnificent leadership and his outstanding heroism throughout the action that his battalion succeeded in capturing and maintaining its hold on this very important objective," the citation ends.

#### *Sunday, September 10th.*

The Battle of Germany is about to begin, writes Christopher Buckley, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent with the Second Army. It will be a battle of river lines and waterways. The German strategy is clear. While denying us the ports of France as long as possible, they will endeavour to hold on the water-lines of the Albert Canal, the Scheldt, the Meuse Canal and the Dutch inundations in the north, on the Meuse in the centre and on the Moselle further south, with their southern bastion the Vosges. That accounts for the already stiffening resistance which we are encountering beyond the Albert Canal.

#### *Monday, September 11th.*

It was announced at midnight that American troops are fighting on German soil. They have crossed the German-Luxembourg border "in reasonable strength" some miles north of Trier and advanced about five miles into enemy territory.

The Rhineland roads are packed with refugees—Germans this time.



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P. 20 / R. V. P.





# PARATROOPS LAND AT ARNHEM

Two of them are already running towards their assembly base.

*(Photo : U.S. Official)*

The Luftwaffe, forced to join in the Battle of Germany to defend her oil resources while Allied troops are battering at her western frontier, has lost 255 fighters in two days.

LUXEMBOURG has been liberated.

Mr. Churchill arrived in Quebec yesterday, for a Conference with President Roosevelt which has begun to-day. They are planning the final defeat of Germany, the rehabilitation of Europe, and a knock-out blow against Japan. Marshal Stalin was invited but cannot attend.

In Britain and in many other countries there is great hope that the German war will end this year.

Moscow announces that there is now complete co-ordination between the Russian armies in western Rumania and the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation under Marshal Tito. Between them they have cut all land lines of escape for the Germans in Bulgaria, Greece and Albania.

The Czechoslovak partisans in Slovakia are also co-operating with the Russians.

The Eighth Army is fighting one of its stiffest actions at the right of the Italian line.

Turkey will refuse asylum to Axis war criminals.

An entire Japanese convoy of fifty-two ships has been destroyed off Mindanao, in the Philippines, by American carrier-borne aircraft, it is announced to-day.

*Wednesday, September 13th.*

Yesterday the American First Army also entered Germany, near Eupen, and to-day they have stormed an outlying fort of the Siegfried Line and are digging in on the wooded heights above Aachen. Neufchatcau has been liberated.

A complete stretch of the Maginot Line fell to American Third Army troops with hardly a shot having been fired yesterday.

Bruges, Spa and Malmedy were among the towns liberated yesterday. To-day, the F.F.I. have freed La Rochelle from its German garrison, and British troops, at a cost of 400 killed and wounded, have taken the valuable port of Le Havre and 9,600 prisoners. Brest is a sea of smoke and flame.

Late to-night it was announced that the Germans had been forced back from the Albert Canal to the Escaut Canal : the first of their defensive waterways has been crossed.

On Monday night the R.A.F. dropped 286,000 incen-

diaries on Darmstadt ; last night, 400,000 incendiaries on railway yards at Frankfurt packed with military supplies.

Mosquitoes bombed Berlin on Tuesday night : 4,000 tons of bombs fell on Germany in daylight to-day.

The bitter struggle for Warsaw continues, inside and outside the city. Last night the Polish Government in London stated that they had received recently from General Bor, Commander-in-Chief of the Home Army in Warsaw, a message of thanks for the supplies dropped by British and Polish airmen. These include over 100 tons of weapons and ammunition.

German garrisons are being withdrawn from islands of the Northern Aegean to reinforce their lines north of Salonika.

#### FLYING BOMB STORIES

Members of an anti-aircraft battery on the South Coast of England watched a flying bomb rushing towards their gun-site with three Air Defence of Great Britain Spitfires in pursuit.

The aircraft were too close for the gunners to fire. The men and women of the gun-site heard the fighters' guns and the bomb faltered and then dived straight for their post.

One of the Spitfires raced level with the now erratic missile, and flicking it with a wing tip turned it off its course. The bomb crashed 250 yards from the gun position and clear of houses, states the Air Ministry.

This incident took place near a village in Kent, and the Spitfire pilot was Flight.-Lieut. R. P. Harding.

It was only one of many such incidents. Flight-Lieut. G. L. Bonham, D.F.C., of Christchurch, New Zealand, who flies a Tempest, destroyed four flying bombs in one patrol, tipping three of them out of control by "forming" and "flipping" them with his fighter's wing tip.

*Thursday, September 14th.*

Praga, the Warsaw suburb on the east bank of the Vistula, has fallen at last to the Red Army. Russian planes are now dropping supplies to the Poles in the city.

The American First Army has crossed the German frontier near Aachen. The British Second Army is advancing to the Escaut Canal.

The French battle fleet entered Toulon to-day.

British, Canadian and Indian troops are making good



Daily Telegraph

THE WESTERN FRONT, FROM HOLLAND TO SWITZERLAND

progress in a new attack on Kesselring's hill positions, and have taken over 1,000 prisoners.

Admiral Nimitz, American C.-in-C. in the Pacific, announces that 501 Japanese planes and 173 ships have been destroyed or damaged in one week's fighting.

*Friday, September 15th.*

American infantry and tanks broke through the main Siegfried Line east of Aachen at 2 p.m. to-day.

The British Second Army (which has now taken 77,000 prisoners since D-day) has won a second bridgehead across the Escaut Canal, and the Canadians are across the Leopold Canal.

*Saturday, September 16th.*

The Quebec Conference ended to-day, though Staff talks continue. Mr. Churchill emphasised the part which Britain would play in the operations against Japan.

The Government is to make a new effort to tackle London's war damage problem. Already 83,000 workmen are engaged on the task, but more will be needed. Lord Woolton, Minister of Reconstruction, illustrated the immensity of the task by giving the following hitherto unpublished figures of London's war damage : Air raids, 1940 to Spring, 1944 : 84,000 houses destroyed ; 142,000 houses still to be repaired, of which 42,000 are not fit for occupation. Flying-bomb attacks, 1944 : 23,000 houses destroyed ; 1,104,000 houses damaged (in a large proportion the damage is slight). Total damage : 107,000 houses destroyed (representing accommodation for 500,000 persons) ; 170,000 seriously damaged and in need of repair ; 700,000 have received first-aid repairs, but need further work.

A General Strike has been declared in Denmark as a protest against the deportation of 190 Danish prisoners to Germany.

The Germans begin to evacuate the island of Samos, in the Aegean.

*Sunday, September 17th.*

#### THE GREAT AIR LANDING

A great force of parachutists and glider troops of the Allied First Airborne Army landed at noon to-day in the

Rhine delta area of Holland, striking at the right flank of Germany's whole defence line in the west.

According to German sources the troops landed in the areas of : Eindhoven, ten miles across the Dutch frontier ; Tilburg, on the Wilhelmina Canal, twenty miles north-west of Eindhoven ; and Nijmegen, on the Rhine, thirty-five miles north-east of Eindhoven and three miles from Germany.

More than a thousand aircraft, including transport planes, tow planes and gliders, streamed across Holland and dropped thousands of British, American and Polish paratroops and airborne infantrymen behind the German lines. The gliders landed in the Dutch fields in neat, straight rows, wing-tip to wing-tip. In a short time the troops who poured out of them had set up their equipment. In some cases they had engaged the enemy before the towing planes had taken off again. Losses were described as practically negligible, considering that the operation was one of the biggest of its kind ever undertaken.

This is the first employment of Lieut.-General Brereton's recently formed First Airborne Army.

*Monday, September 18th.*

Armoured patrols of General Dempsey's British Second Army, advancing sixteen miles in twenty-four hours from their Escaut Canal bridgehead at Neer Pelt, have made contact at Eindhoven, ten miles inside Holland, with troops of the First Airborne Army, which are also being supplied and reinforced from the air.

Yesterday the Russians launched a new offensive in Estonia, and they are still advancing through northern Transylvania towards Hungary. The battle for Warsaw continues, and to-day American Eighth Army Air Force bombers dropped supplies to the Poles and went on to land in Russia.

Except in a few special coastal areas last night was the brightest Britain had known for five years and two weeks. A "dim-out" replaced the black-out of buildings, and in some places the streets were more brightly lit than since 1939. But London viewed from the roof of the *Daily Telegraph* building, was as dark as ever.

Donato Carretta, former Governor of Regina Cœli Gaol, was lynched to-day by a Roman mob which included many women. He was dragged from his car outside the Palace of Justice as he tried to escape and thrown in the River Tiber

from the Cavour Bridge. Some of the rioters followed his already mutilated body in a rowing-boat and beat it as it floated down the river. Then they dragged it on board and took it to the front of the gaol, where it was hung up at the entrance.

General Eisenhower announces the setting up of the first Allied Military Government on German soil.

*Tuesday, September 19th.*

The British Second Army has reached a point three miles from Nijmegen, in Holland, and five miles from the German frontier, threatening to cut off the Germans in western Holland, and linking up with the Airborne troops at Eindhoven. This important communications centre has been liberated.

The great French port of Brest has been taken at last, after a six weeks' siege. The town and port have been reduced to absolute ruin by fire and high explosive, but the famous U-boat pens, the first to fall into Allied hands, are little damaged. Their massive roof of concrete, fifteen to thirty feet thick, protected not only docks for twenty U-boats, but a subterranean storehouse and stronghold of some 400 rooms, cut in the solid rock. Over 35,000 prisoners have been taken during the siege, and perhaps 5,000 Germans killed. The Americans finally used scaling ladders in medieval fashion to get over the ancient city walls, and took the city by storm.

At the end of August there were 1,085 battalions of the Home Guard in Britain, excluding Northern Ireland, with a total of 1,727,095 men. The number of women Home Guard auxiliaries was 30,696. These hitherto secret figures were revealed by the War Office to-day. The activities of the Home Guard have been distributed over the field of coastal defence, motor transport, light anti-aircraft, bomb disposal and infantry. They have earned the following decorations : For Gallantry, 2 George Crosses, 13 George Medals, 1 O.B.E., 11 M.B.E.'s, 6 B.E.M.'s and 58 commendations. For other services, 31 C.B.E.'s, 87 O.B.E.'s, 139 M.B.E.'s and 107 B.E.M.'s.

In Italy the Fifth Army has pierced the Gothic Line and is twenty miles beyond Florence.

The Danes have revolted. There is fighting in Copenhagen and other cities.

## FINLAND SIGNS AN ARMISTICE

An armistice with Russia and Britain was signed by Finnish delegates in Moscow to-day. The Finns cede Petsamo and Karelia to Russia, lease the Porkkala Peninsula outside Helsinki to Russia, place their airfields and merchant fleet at the disposal of the Allies, and agree, among other things, to disarm and hand over all German forces in Finland.

*Wednesday, September 20th.*

One of the most furious and dramatic battles since D Day is being fought round Arnhem by Allied airborne troops.

British armoured patrols to-night reached the River Waal (the Rhine) north-east of Nijmegen. More troops and supplies have been landed from the air to-day, in spite of low clouds, mist and rain, to strengthen the narrow corridor which the Allies have driven across Holland to the Rhine. Polish infantry have reached the Scheldt at Terneuzen. The whole of Boulogne is now in Allied hands, after a three-day assault.

The largest flying-bomb assembly plant yet found has been captured by American troops near the Luxembourg border, a vast tunnelled underground factory which could have produced 500 flying bombs a day.

*Thursday, September 21st.*

British tanks to-day drove across the Rhine (Waal) at Nijmegen, where the vital bridge was captured intact by American paratroops, and thrust towards Arnhem. The Airborne troops there are fighting desperately for the bridge across the River Lek, the gateway to the Westphalian plain.

American engineers foiled a German scheme to flood the ancient Dutch city of Maastricht, near which a fierce battle is developing.

Rhineland factories are being dismantled and moved east.

H.M. Government publishes a White Paper giving the plans for demobilisation.

British officers and men of the fighting services in the Far East are to have increased pay from November 1st.

American carrier-aircraft bomb the Manila area in the Philippines, destroying forty Japanese ships and 357 aircraft.



## V.C. AT HOLYROOD

Flying Officer John Cruickshank, the Coastal Command pilot who was wounded in seventy-two places, but continued to attack a U-boat till he sank it, received the V.C. from the King at an investiture at the Palace at Holyrood House to-day.

It was an historic occasion. Cruickshank, a peace-time bank clerk, was the first man for several centuries to be decorated by a sovereign during war-time in the ancient palace of the Scottish kings. The investiture was the first to be held there since Queen Victoria's reign.

Princess Elizabeth, who accompanied her parents on their visit to Edinburgh, was making her first official visit to Scotland since her eighteenth birthday.

*Friday, September 22nd.*

The position of the Air Army at Arnhem is critical. They have suffered heavy casualties and for days and nights have been under heavy shellfire, with frequent attacks by infantry and tanks. The relief force has been held by the Germans at Elst, 4 miles to the south. There is great and growing anxiety in Britain for the Arnhem men.

The Germans are attacking heavily our narrow corridor from the Dutch frontier to Nijmegen.

The last German fort in Boulogne surrendered to the Canadians this afternoon. The town has almost ceased to exist.

An Order of the Day from Marshal Stalin announces the capture of Tallin (Revel), capital of Estonia, and 800 other places.

The Eighth Army has crossed the last foothills of the Apennines to capture the ancient city of Rimini and to win one of the stiffest battles it has had to fight in its long advance from El Alamein. After four weeks of bitter fighting, General Alexander's masterly plan for breaking through the Gothic Line has succeeded completely, and the battle for the hills is over ; the battle for the plains has begun.

Under the white glare of arc lamps and before microphones which broadcast the sentence all over Italy, Pietro Caruso, the former Fascist police chief of Rome, was last night condemned to death. His face was ashen and expressionless as

he stood propped on his crutches to hear the inevitable verdict. He uttered no sound and made no gesture as the President of the court pronounced the sentence, while film cameras whirled close beside him. This afternoon he was executed at Fort Bravetta, tied into a chair with his back to the firing squad. He died shouting : " Long live Italy ! Shoot straight ! "

*Sunday, September 24th.*

Yesterday " ducks " (amphibious lorries) crossed the Rhine at Arnhem and succeeded in getting supplies to the First Airborne Division. The Germans cut the supply line from Eindhoven to Nijmegen but it was restored.

British troops have entered Germany south-east of Nijmegen.

Last night the R.A.F. dropped 12,000-lb. bombs in the Dortmund-Ems Canal, emptying a long stretch of it.

*Monday, September 25th.*

At dawn to-day the Germans again cut the corridor to Nijmegen, and again it was restored. The Second Army has taken Helmond and Deurne, east of Eindhoven.

Numbers of troops have been ferried across the Lek (or Lower Rhine) to the gallant airborne troops holding the shrinking pocket, now about 1,000 yards square, west of Arnhem. The bulk of the airborne troops still fighting are believed to be in the area of the railway bridge some two miles west of the town. The men who held the road bridge into the centre of Arnhem have been overwhelmed, according to survivors who have reached our lines. Typhoons, Spitfires and Mustangs are defying almost impossible weather to give air support.

Coblenz and other German targets have been raided by 1,200 American heavy bombers, and the Calais defences by the R.A.F.

In the south the American Third Army captured Epinal, one of the great French fortress towns covering the Belfort gap.

Mr. Churchill landed in Britain to-night from the *Queen Mary*.

*Tuesday, September 26th.*

German radio claims that "the British First Airborne Division has ceased to exist" and that the last 600 men at Arnhem surrendered this morning. Shaef has placed a security ban on all Arnhem news.

The British Second Army, fanning out along a 42-mile front to the east of the corridor across Holland to the Lower Rhine at Arnhem, to-day reached the River Maas on a front of several miles close to the German frontier. The corridor is still being supplied by air.

"There is accumulating evidence that the German General Staff, already envisaging defeat, are beginning to make preparations to win the next war," said Viscount Cranborne, Dominions Secretary, in the House of Lords to-day.

Dover has to-day had its worst shelling of the war from the big guns at Calais and Cap Gris nez, and the R.A.F. dropped 3,500 tons of bombs on the German gun-sites and defences.

The Eighth Army has crossed the Rubicon.

H.M. Government has published to-day its scheme for Social Insurance, covering childhood, sickness, unemployment, maternity, widowhood, old age and death.

*Wednesday, September 27th.*

The Russians have crossed the border into Hungary and captured Mako, Foldeak and other towns, according to the German Overseas News Agency.

"Land Forces, Adriatic" (Allied seaborne and airborne forces, mainly British) are fighting on a wide front in Albania and the Dalmatian Islands, it is revealed to-day. They are supported by the Balkans Air Force.

The Yugoslav Army, developing its successful offensive in Slavonia (Croatia) has captured three towns and reached the River Drava.

The Office of War Information to-day warned the American nation that it would take at least a year and a half or two years after the surrender of Germany to defeat Japan.

### THE EPIC OF ARNHEN

Struggling through a hurricane barrage of fire from German 88 mm. guns, tank cannon and machine-guns, the last survivors—2,000 out of 8,000—of the noble band of British

airborne troops who held the Arnhem bridgehead for nine days were ferried over across the Lower Rhine to our lines during Monday night. Blood and mud-stained, exhausted, hungry and bearded, the remnants were brought to safety—beaten in body but not in spirit.

“Let us get back again, give us a few tanks and we’ll finish the job,” they said, after having escaped from what one London sergeant described as “the kind of hell I never dreamed could exist on earth.”

Every man had a story of terror by day and by night, of ceaseless enemy attacks with flame-throwers, tanks and self-propelling guns firing high explosive and armour-piercing shells.

This great airborne operation, brilliant in conception and daring in execution, failed of complete success because difficulties of terrain, the weight of German counter-attacks and other factors prevented the British Second Army from reaching the Arnhem men. The operation fell short only in the ultimate phase—the seizure of the Rhine bridges and the turning of the entire enemy system of defences. That failure has robbed us of the larger part—though not all—of the strategic dividend which we were entitled to expect from the operation. But the great fight at Arnhem was certainly not fought in vain: it made possible the capture of the vital Nijmegen bridge. The crossings of the Maas and the Waal were secured.

In a message of congratulation to Major-General R. E. Urquhart, D.S.O., who was in command, Field-Marshal Montgomery said: “So long as we have in the armies of the British Empire officers and men who will do as you have done, then we can indeed look forward with complete confidence to the future. In years to come it will be a great thing for a man to be able to say: ‘I fought at Arnhem.’”

*Thursday, September 28th.*

The British Second Army’s corridor in Holland is now regarded as secure. Elst and Bommel have been taken. British troops have reached the Maas (the Dutch Meuse) and crossed the Antwerp-Turnhout Canal.

American troops have made further breaches in the Siegfried Line near Aachen, and repulsed counter-attacks near Nancy.

Calais Citadel was taken by storm by the Canadians this morning.

To-day, for the fourth day in succession, over 1,000 American heavy bombers have attacked Germany.

Russian forces have entered Czechoslovakia at Lupkow.

General Scobie is G.O.C., Greece.

Speaking to a crowded House of Commons for an hour and three-quarters to-day, the Prime Minister reviewed the war situation in the West and the Far East and the political situation in Europe. Frequent and prolonged cheers punctuated the speech.

### *Friday, September 29th.*

The Canadians to-day stormed the last German strong-points at Cap Gris Nez, and over-ran the big cross-Channel guns which have been shelling the Dover area for four years.

There has been heavy fighting all day round the British salient north of Nijmegen. German troops who crossed the Rhine near Arnhem last night were wiped out.

The American Seventh Army is within 11 miles of Belfort.

The Luftwaffe has appeared in force over the Western Front several times lately and has suffered considerable losses.

This is the thirteenth day of the intensive assault by Allied fighter-bombers on the Rhineland railway system.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Eden, emphasised to-day that the German General Staff is planning the next war, and setting up a secret organisation to work for it, and that fanatical young Nazis are being trained for guerrilla warfare.

Mr. Roosevelt disclosed to-day that he had called for a speeding up of the plans to prevent Germany from making war in future. He also gave a stern warning to Argentina about the growth of Nazi and Fascist influence and methods in that country.

### *Saturday, September 30th.*

This morning, Colonel Schoerner, the German commander in Calais, surrendered to the Canadians, and his troops have been surrendering in hundreds during the day.

Heavy bombers continued to-day the attacks on Germany which have been maintained throughout the month by Allied aircraft of many types, the principal targets being railways,

oil plants, aircraft factories, airfields and munition works. German escape routes in the Balkans have also been heavily raided, including roads and railways in Yugoslavia, Hungary and Rumania.

## OCTOBER 1944

*Sunday, October 1st.*

Calais is now entirely in the hands of the Canadians, who have thus completed a brilliant campaign, and here and at Cap Gris Nez have taken more than 25,000 prisoners.

Some 15,000 Germans are still holding out at Dunkirk, and are being supplied by E-boats.

A German counter-attack towards Nijmegen was halted this afternoon.

Dover, Deal and Folkestone to-day held special services of thanksgiving for the ending of their ordeal. "Hell-fire Corner" has been under shell-fire from the French coast for four years. The number of shells recorded was 2,565. They caused great destruction, but casualties were fewer than expected because caves in the cliffs provided safe shelters. In Dover, 107 people were killed by shells ; in Deal, 12 ; in Folkestone, 28. Many more were injured. The towns were also much bombed.

Secrets of the strangest fortresses of the war, the grotesque concrete-and-steel towers guarding the Thames Estuary from enemy mine-laying aircraft have just been shown to Edmund Townshend, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent after a two-hour voyage by drifter from Sheerness. The forts have been completely successful in their special task. The menace of the massive gun-platforms rising from the river bed has been so formidable that since they were put in position there has been no serious mine-laying in the estuary.

In Italy the whole south bank of the Fiumicino River, from the Adriatic to Savignano has been cleared of the enemy. The key position was captured by Londoners, from New Cross, Deptford and Bermondsey. But the weather still greatly hampers all action in Italy.

The Polish Committee of National Liberation in Moscow refuses to accept General "Bor," appointed by the Polish

Government in London, as Commander-in-Chief of all Polish forces.

More than 10,000 Japanese troops have been killed in the American invasion of Palau, says the Navy Department. Five islands have been secured.

*Tuesday, October 3rd.*

The American First Army has broken into the Siegfried Line and taken Ubach.

R.A.F. bombers have breached the dykes on Walcheren and much of the island is flooded.

The Finns are pursuing German troops into Lapland. The Russians are still advancing into Yugoslavia. German jet-propelled fighters are now coming into action against Allied planes in increasing numbers, but they are a good deal less manœuvrable than Spitfires and Mustangs. Heavy raids on Germany continue.

The Air Ministry states that the Dortmund-Ems Canal has been drained along ten miles of its length since the R.A.F. raid on September 23rd ; this cuts off the Ruhr by waterway from the North Sea and Berlin.

#### WARSAW HAS FALLEN

Warsaw has fallen. At 10 p.m. on Monday the last shots were fired by the Polish Home Army after a fight against the Germans which lasted sixty-three days.

M. Mikolajczyk, the Polish Prime Minister in London said to-night : "The garrison and people were completely starved. . . . The garrison and population of the capital have fulfilled their soldierly duty beyond the limits of human endurance and gallantry.

"The defence of Warsaw will remain for ever a testimony to the invincible moral strength of the Polish nation and its unyielding will to independent life."

The Soviet News Agency quoted the Polpress Agency as saying : "Leaders of the uprising began it without any co-ordination with the Command of the Polish Army or the Red Army, considering only their own selfish interests. They now conclude the uprising in surrender, without considering the fate of the heroic insurgents, and prefer to deliver them into the hands of the Germans, rather than link up in fighting with the Polish Army."

During the first days of the fighting the Home Army was in control of almost the entire city. Supplies were dropped in the middle of August by Allied planes from Italy. The "Old Town" succumbed early in September. Large-scale aid reached Warsaw on September 18th, after the Russians permitted the American Air Force to use Russian bases for a shuttle service.

It is said that 85 per cent. of the buildings in Warsaw have been destroyed. 50 per cent. beyond repair. Casualties must have reached a terrible total.

*Thursday, October 5th.*

The Canadian First Army, advancing north of the Antwerp-Turnhout Canal, has linked up with the British Second Army. American First Army tanks are hotly engaged with German armoured formations north of Aachen.

Goebbels, as Trustee for Mobilisation, announced a new series of decrees last night in fulfilment of his threatened intention to "scrape the bottom of the barrel" for the last German war resources.

#### LANDING IN GREECE

British troops have landed in Greece to resume the struggle there against the Germans after three and a half years. During those years of suffering and starvation the Greeks have been longing and praying for this moment, and the welcome accorded to the first British troops is described as "wildly enthusiastic."

It is officially announced that British forces, who were carried to Greece in ships and planes and were dropped by parachute, entered the town of Patras, in the north-west of the Peloponnese, on Tuesday night and that the R.A.F. is now operating from the airport, captured a few hours earlier by our paratroopers. Patras is believed to be one of the enemy's last strongholds in the Peloponnese.

Greek partisans have flocked to join us and are now fighting with us against the Germans.

Meanwhile, higher up the Adriatic a furious battle is being waged between British troops, supported by Albanian patriots, in Southern Albania and German forces there and across the Straits in the vitally important island of Corfu, which commands the entrance of the Adriatic. Our men on the mainland are harassing the Germans, who are trying to hold the



tiny Albanian port of Sarande, which is part of their communications link with Corfu.

The Balkan Air Force has bombed marshalling yards at Mostair, in Yugoslavia, and at Sunja, in Croatia, with the double object of preventing the Germans moving supplies down to Greece through these points or withdrawing up north through them. There were probably five German divisions in Greece, but for some time it has been reported that they have been gradually withdrawing towards Macedonia. Their position is hopeless.

*Friday, October 6th.*

British tanks have entered Arnhem, say the Germans. At dawn to-day Canadians, led by flame-throwers, stormed across the Leopold Canal north of Bruges. American tanks have reached the outskirts of Geilenkirchen. Dunkirk was bombed at 10 a.m. to-day, when the truce for the evacuation of civilians came to an end.

Berlin, Hamburg and other industrial targets were bombed heavily to-day.

Famine, flood and cold threaten to overwhelm much of Holland and 7,000,000 of its population. The Germans are looting, murdering and burning, breaking dykes to let in the sea, destroying factories and communications, and driving thousands into the open country to perish of hunger and exposure.

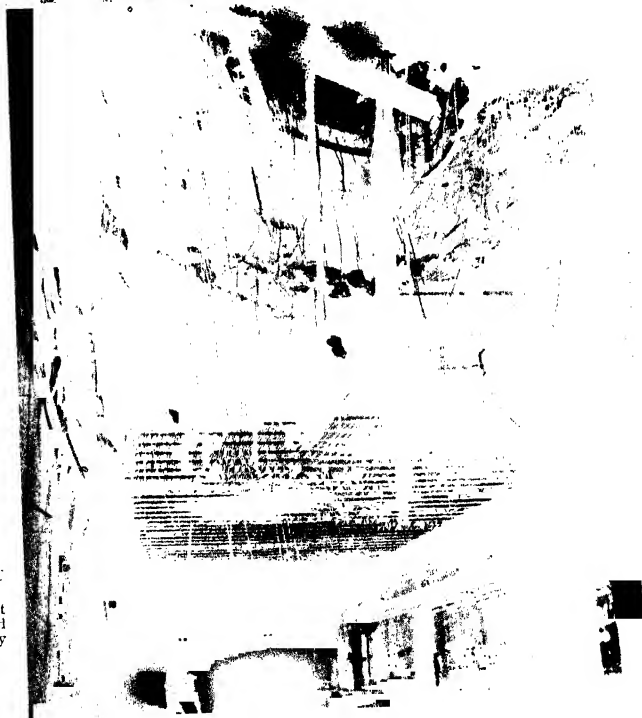
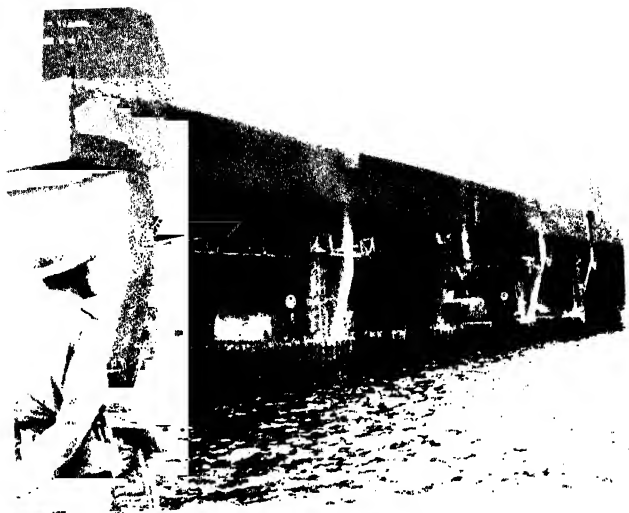
The Peloponnese is almost entirely in Allied hands. British troops entered Rion without opposition. The Germans are said to have left Corinth. They have razed hundreds of villages and many Greeks are living in the burnt-out ruins of their homes, at the point of starvation.

The Russians have entered Hungary on a 50-mile front 100 miles south-west of Budapest. Yugoslav units have reached the Danube near Belgrade.

*Saturday, October 7th.*

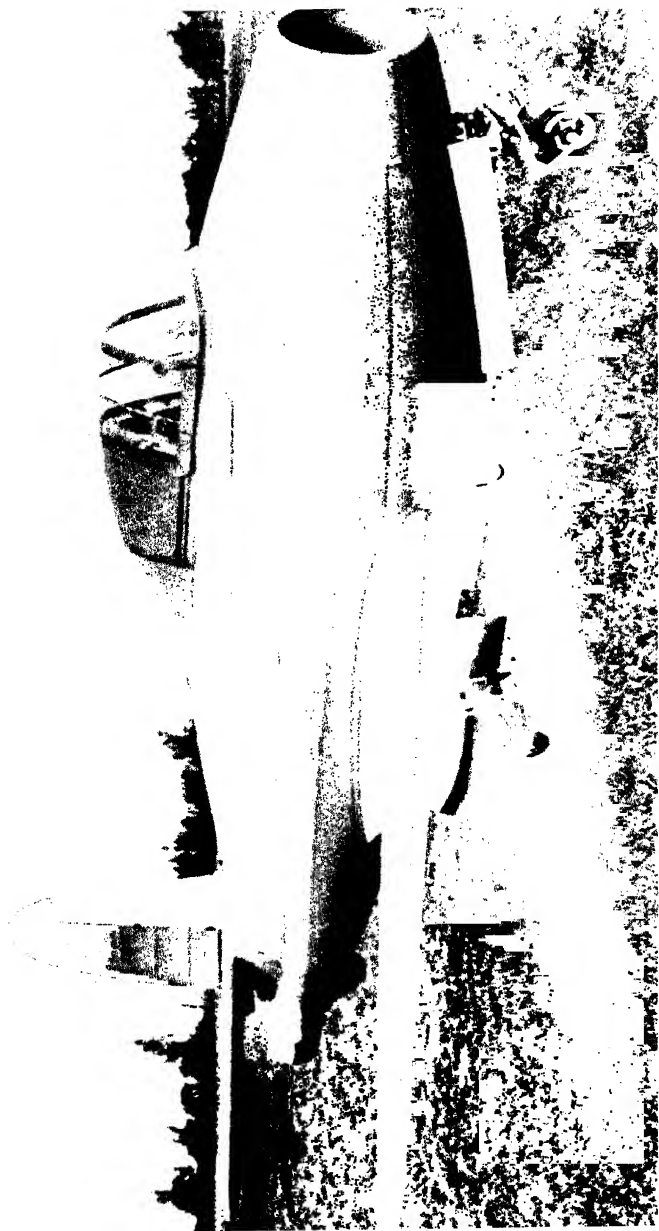
The American First Army has broken through the German line north of Aachen.

Berlin was bombed shortly after dark last night for the third time in twenty-four hours. Dortmund, Bremen and Saarbrücken were also attacked by Lancasters and Halifaxes, which were out in great strength.



U.S. U-BOAT  
 U.S. BOMBED  
 out pens at Brest  
 or the roof had  
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 ed bombing.

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#### JET-PROPELLLED AIRCRAFT

The first picture to be released of the British jet-propelled aircraft constructed by Air Commodore Whittle's design by the Gloster Aircraft Company, Ltd. It flew for the first time in May, 1941.

Flying bombs which reached Southern England last night are believed to have been launched from Heinkel bombers over the North Sea. An Alert was sounded in London for the second night in succession. A bomb which crashed on a block of business houses completely wrecked the building and partially destroyed others.

The Russians have opened a new offensive against East Prussia.

*Sunday, October 8th.*

Corinth surrendered to-day. British Commandos took into protective custody a garrison of 240 Greek security police who had collaborated with the Germans and had been besieged for ten days by guerrillas of E.L.A.S., the left-wing partisan organisation. We entered the city writes L. Marsland Gander, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent, with a picturesque army of a thousand guerrillas, accompanied by a jeep with five British officers and two other ranks. Corinth was frantic with excitement.

Shortly after thirteen Lancasters of R.A.F. Bomber Command had attacked the Kembs Dam across the River Rhine, eight miles from the Swiss frontier near Basle yesterday afternoon, reconnaissance pilots, circling the targets at 3,000 feet, saw two delayed-action 12,000-lb. bombs explode. Almost immediately the dam crashed and water started to pour through the breach. To-night the level of the Rhine was reported to have fallen 7 feet.

Mr. Wendell Wilkie died suddenly to-day.

*Tuesday, October 10th.*

Field-Marshal von Rundstedt, German Commander-in-Chief in the West, has warned his troops that an Allied offensive is impending.

The proposals for world peace and security put forward at the recent four-power talks at Dumbarton Oaks, in the United States, were made known yesterday in an announcement issued simultaneously in London, Washington, Moscow and Chungking. The conference recommended the setting up of an international organisation, to be entitled the United Nations, formed of all peace-loving nations, to maintain that peace and security.

Primary responsibility in that direction would be vested in the new body's Security Council on which Britain, the United States, Russia, China and, in due course, France would have permanent seats. Six other seats on the Council would be filled by six other states, which would be elected for two years each, three retiring each year. The Security Council would be empowered to investigate any dispute or any situation which might lead to international friction. It would be given power to take such action by air, naval or land forces as might be necessary. All members would undertake to make available to the Council on its demand armed forces, facilities and help necessary to keep the peace. The proposals, which are tentative and intended to serve as the basis of complete proposals to be agreed on by all the United Nations, at a later conference, also suggested the setting up of (1) a General Assembly ; (2) an International Court of Justice and (3) a Secretariat. The heads of the four delegations at the conference were : Sir Alexander Cadogan (Britain), Mr. Stettinius (United States), M. Gromyko (Russia) and Mr. Wei Tao-ming (China).

Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden, the Foreign Secretary, arrived in Moscow yesterday to confer with Marshal Stalin and M. Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Commissar.

Some 100,000 German troops have been trapped in Latvia and Lithuania by the Russian capture of Palanga on the Baltic coast.

All restrictions on the showing of place names on signposts, railway stations and elsewhere in Britain, have been lifted by Mr. Morrison, Home Secretary, in a new order effective from to-day.

*Thursday, October 12th.*

American infantry entered Aachen this afternoon, after the stricken town had been further dive-bombed and shelled. Hundreds of Germans have surrendered.

Fighting in the pocket south of the Scheldt has reached a new peak of ferocity.

Yesterday the Russians captured Szeged, Hungary's second largest city, and to-day Oradea, an important communications centre in north-west Transylvania. There is panic in Budapest.



GREECE

*Daily Telegraph*

*Friday, October 13th.*

Riga, capital of Latvia, has been liberated, states an Order of the Day issued by Marshal Stalin to-night.

Admiral Nimitz, C.-in-C., Pacific, announces that 396 Japanese planes and at least twenty-seven ships were destroyed, for a loss of forty-five American planes, in attacks on Formosa on Wednesday and yesterday.

*Saturday, October 14th.*

#### ATHENS IS FREE

A small body of British troops to-day entered Athens and its port, Piræus.

This small band, commanded by Colonel Earl Jellicoe, with one correspondent acting as guide and interpreter, and accompanied by an ever-growing group of Greek partisans had to make their way to the capital over twenty-eight miles of blown-up roads from the little airfield at Megara, which they had captured on Thursday and Friday by a massed parachute descent and glider landings.

The German evacuation was completed two days ago when, as a parting gesture, General Felmy, the German commander, laid a wreath on the Greek Unknown Warrior's grave.

Two million people in liberated Athens welcomed the first British troops with a volcanic outburst of joy and relief far surpassing anything I have seen in France or Italy, writes L. Marsland Gander, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent. As we have advanced from the West coast of the Peloponnese, the reception has grown progressively more wildly effusive and Athens was the peak. We have grown used to flowers, scent, rose-petals, wine, frantic cheers and embarrassing kisses. Athenians showered us with million drachma notes, formed torchlight processions, discharged fireworks and fired pistols.

It was at night, however, that the enthusiasm reached its wild crescendo. The leading jeep had to force a passage through the roaring crowd. Guerrilla guards of honour standing at the roadside fired salutes into the air with their pistols, small boys lit pieces of German cordite for crackers and red flares from Very pistols sailed skywards all round.

The crowd changed incessantly one English word which they had all picked up : "Welcome ! Welcome !" They trooped round the streets arm in arm singing their own peculiar versions of "Tipperary," "Roll out the Barrel," and even "On Ilkla Moor Baht 'At."

Before evacuating the Germans carried out destruction in the port area estimated at millions of pounds, but the Marathon dam, on which the water supply depends, and the electric generating station were saved from destruction by partisans, so that the city has electricity and water.

Exploring, I found that Athens bears practically no outward scars from her years of suffering. The Acropolis, from which the Greek flag now floats, the Greeks having ceremoniously burnt the German one that was there two days ago, is untouched, as are all the classical monuments. The Germans destroyed the cables and the wireless transmitter, but left the radio station undamaged. Within the city limits they blew up no bridges and, in fact, treated Athens practically as an open city.

Our men also received invaluable help from the Greeks, who never lost their faith in Great Britain, writes John Wallis. The affection and admiration in which the Greeks held our troops is the greatest tribute to Britain's rôle in the war I have yet seen.

### *Sunday, October 15th.*

To-day's Anglo-American air operations included attacks on the Sorpe Dam, twenty miles south-east of Dortmund, hit by 12,000-lb. bombs dropped by a special squadron of Lancasters : Cologne, battered by over 1,200 Flying Fortresses and Liberators, escorted by over 500 fighters : Duisburg, Germany's greatest inland port, about 150 miles from the mouth of the Rhine, blasted in the R.A.F.'s biggest single night operation, in which over 1,500 bombers were over Germany and dropped over 5,000 tons. This followed on two similar attacks yesterday by the R.A.F. and the U.S.A.A.F. in very great strength in which over 1,000 Flying Fortresses and Liberators hammered railway marshalling yards and road and rail communications in and near Cologne. Over 1,000 R.A.F. Lancasters and Halifaxes, escorted by 300 fighters, in twenty-five minutes dropped nearly 5,000 tons on Duisburg.

Flying bombs were launched by German aircraft over



Southern England, including the London area, to-night, for the fifth successive night.

The German News Agency announces that Field-Marshal Rommel is dead. He was fatally injured when his car was attacked by R.A.F. planes in Normandy on July 17th, and it is believed that he died in Bernay Hospital, near Lisieux, on July 30th. The planes were Typhoons led by Wing-Commander J. Baldwin, D.S.O., D.F.C. and bar.

Yugoslav and Russian units are fighting their way into Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia.

Petsamo, the Arctic ice-free naval base in Northern Finland, has been captured by the Russians after a five-day offensive.

Admiral Horthy, Regent of Hungary, broadcast to-day an announcement that he was asking for an armistice. A few hours later a Fascist government seized power and announced that Hungary would go on fighting.

A combined British and Greek fleet is landing troops at the Piræus. Seven persons were killed and at least forty wounded in Athens to-day when bitter political feuds, temporarily forgotten in the general celebration, flamed up fiercely.

### THE SYNTHETIC HARBOURS

One of the greatest secrets and achievements of the war—the building of what Mr. Churchill described as great synthetic harbours for the landing in France—is revealed to-day.

Two huge artificial ports, each as large as Dover Harbour, and worth £25,000,000 each, were towed in sections across the Channel when the invasion started and within a matter of days men, vehicles and supplies were pouring ashore. Only a few hours after the assault troops had landed surveyors from the Royal Engineers were ashore, fixing under enemy fire the precise spot at which the structure should be built—off the beaches of Arromanches, in the British sector, and near Vierville, in the American sector. By “D plus 3” the first components of the structures had begun to arrive off the Normandy coast. A few days later steamers began to unload.

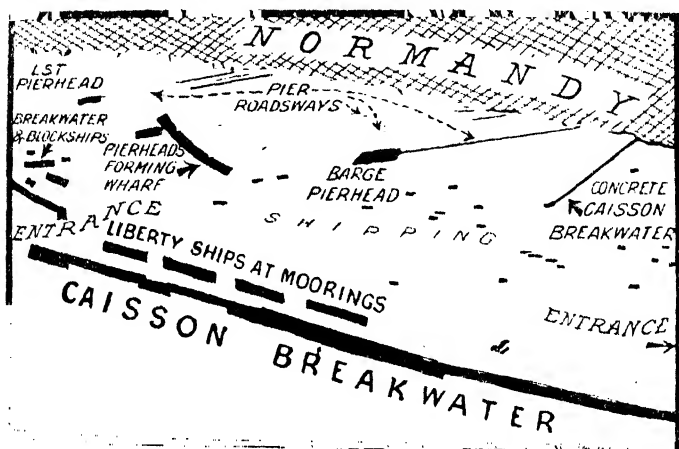
All the units which compose the gigantic structures, including those required for the American part of the project, were built entirely in this country and by British labour, it was stated. Many of the workers engaged on this work were transferred from their homes in all parts of the country.

They responded magnificently to the call and there was no case of leakage of information.

*Tuesday, October 17th.*

The British, Canadian and American armies on the northern sectors of the Western Front to-day continued to advance steadily.

The American grip on Aachen was further tightened north



*Daily Telegraph*

THE INVASION HARBOUR AT ARROMANCHES

of the city. To the north-east, around Crucifix Hill, a fierce battle raged last night as the Germans made yet another unsuccessful attempt to break the ring round Aachen. Six-hundred and ten thousand, five hundred and forty-one prisoners have now been taken by the Western Front.

Cologne has been raided to-day by over 1,300 American heavy bombers.

The King returned to England last night after a five-day visit to the Western Front. He went to the Nijmegen spear-head, three miles from Germany, visited many units—wearing

battle-dress for the first time—and was given a tremendous ovation by Dutch and Belgian crowds.

Impressive figures given yesterday by Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory, retiring Air C.-in-C., Allied Expeditionary Air Force—who has just been appointed Air C.-in-C., South-East Asia—show the gigantic part which the air forces have played in the liberation of Europe. From August 9th to September 3rd our planes flew more than 13,000 tons of supplies to the forward positions ; and from Invasion Day until the first week in October no fewer than 103,742 casualties had been evacuated by air. During August alone Allied bombers and fighter-bombers destroyed : 873 tanks, 12,441 vehicles, 1,413 locomotives, 5,926 rail wagons, 406 river barges.

In Italy, American troops are now astride the Florence-Bologna road.

The Russians, having reached the eastern frontier of East Prussia, stood last night within 38 miles of Insterburg, the big road and railway junction which guards the way to Königsberg, capital of the German province.

The Germans are said to be evacuating Salonika, and all the Greek islands have been liberated except Rhodes, Western Crete, Leros and Cos.

Carrier-borne planes of Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet have destroyed 828 Japanese planes in three days' operations.

#### *Thursday, October 19th.*

On the Western front the Allies continue to make slow progress, while they "build up" for a large-scale offensive. The Germans are resisting staunchly ; towns and villages often have to be taken house by house.

Some 120,000 Germans, supplied by air, are still holding out against French Forces of the Interior in Chareute, La Rochelle, Lorient, St. Nazaire and the Ile d'Oléron, on the Biscay coast.

Moscow announced last night that the Russians have forced seven Carpathian passes and advanced into Czechoslovakia on a front of 170 miles, and to-night Berlin reports a "grand assault on East Prussia."

Last night Hitler proclaimed the formation of a German People's Guard (Deutsche Volkssturm) ; it will be under the Nazi Party, not the Army, and every male German civilian between sixteen and sixty is being conscripted. And last

night also Shaef announced the code of military laws by which occupied territory in Germany will be governed. Main points are : Obliteration of Nazism and arrest of war criminals ; Confiscation of Nazi party property and records, abrogation of Nazi laws, including racial discrimination, dissolution of Nazi courts, abolition of Nazi symbols ; Machinery for economic, social, industrial and political control ; Death for spying, armed resistance by partisans, possessing firearms or radio transmitters, looting, sabotage ; Newspapers suspended till licensed ; Crossing of frontiers of December 31st, 1937, forbidden ; Deals in foreign exchange, gold and property abroad prohibited ; No fraternisation with Allied personnel. English the official language.

A raiding force under Brigadier Turnbull is making life a burden for German garrisons still left in the Ægean Islands, while the British-American Military Liaison is supplying food, etc., to liberated islands, and to Greece.

Tokio reports an American landing in the Philippines on Tuesday, and attacks by a British naval force on Tuesday and Thursday on the Nicobar Islands.

### *Friday, October 20th.*

Aachen fell to-day to the Americans after a ten-day siege. The German losses have been much heavier than the American. The town is in ruins.

Pierre Laval, former Vichy Prime Minister, was condemned to death to-day in his absence, by the Court of Justice at Marseilles. He is said to be in Germany.

The Russians have taken Debreczen, a vital stronghold and communications centre in the Hungarian plain. Most of the Hungarian Army is said to be fighting the Germans.

### BELGRADE IS FREE

To-night an Order of the Day by Marshal Stalin announced the liberation of Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia by Russian troops and Marshal Tito's Army of National Liberation. The city has been in German hands since April 12th, 1941.

Hand-to-hand fighting went on all last night in the north-western part of the city, where remnants of the German garrison made their final stand. Soviet bombers and fighters

carried out a twenty-four hour patrol over the River Sava to forestall any attempt by the Germans to throw more forces into the city or evacuate the survivors. There was particularly bitter fighting in Western Belgrade, where the Russians and Yugoslavs captured the railway bridge across the Sava. The attackers then cleared the docks, pressing the enemy back to the north-western district. At the crossing of Washington and Prince Pavel-streets German infantry and tanks staged a furious counter-attack. The Russian soldiers are full of enthusiasm for the courage the Yugoslavs displayed in tackling tanks with grenades.

A German relief column of tanks, infantry and artillery was met by Soviet troops four miles from Belgrade and wiped out.

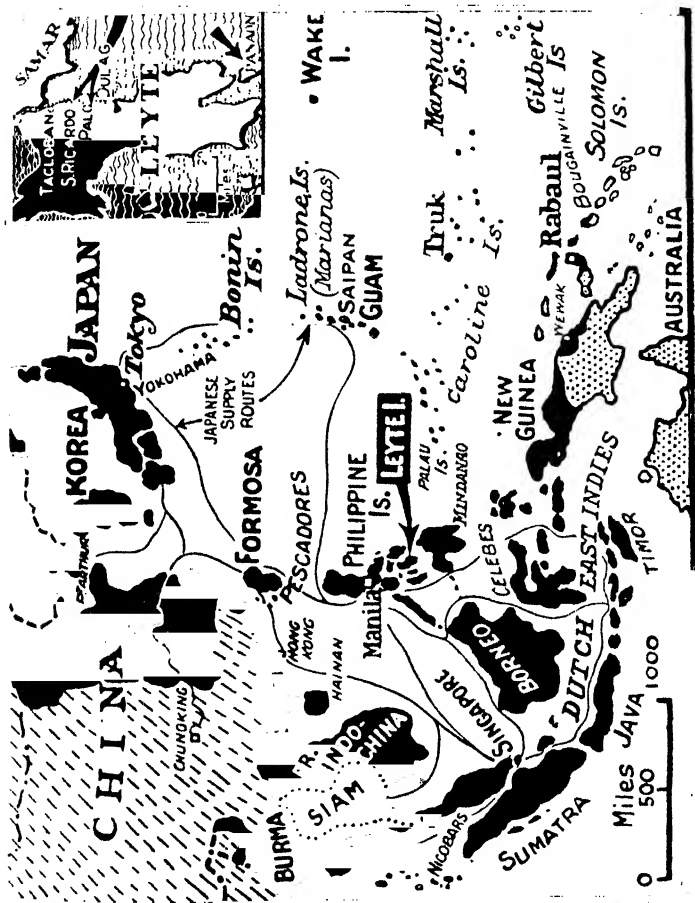
#### LANDING IN THE PHILIPPINES

In the greatest amphibious operation of the Pacific war powerful American forces landed to-day on Leyte Island, in the central Philippines, writes N. C. Braidwood, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent, who went ashore with them.

By to-night two major beach-heads had been firmly established on the east coast of the island, and tanks and infantry were advancing on the capital, Tacloban, a port of 32,000 inhabitants. Enemy resistance was, however, stiffening in this sector, where the leading American units had come up against heavy mortar and artillery fire. Further south, other American troops were fanning out towards the Japanese airfields in the Leyte Valley.

The principal landings were made between San Ricardo, three miles south of Tacloban, and Palo, and between San Josen and Dulah. General MacArthur, defender of the Philippines in 1942 and now Allied C-in-C., South-West Pacific, waded knee-deep in water to the shore. "I'll stay for the duration now," he said. He was accompanied by every living member of the garrison who escaped from Corregidor to Australia with him. It was on May 4th, 1942, that the last remnants of the Corregidor garrison surrendered.

In his communiqué, General MacArthur said the blow at Leyte would split in two the Japanese garrison of the Philippines, estimated at 225,000 men. Capture of the Philippines would be decisive strategically. It would cut off Japan from her conquered empire in South-East Asia and the East Indies.



Daily Telegraph

JAPANESE CONQUESTS AND THE AMERICAN LANDING IN THE PHILIPPINES

*Monday, October 23rd.*

The western front appears to be moving again ; Canadians yesterday stormed Breskens, one of the seaward gates of the great port of Antwerp, which is so badly needed to supply the Allied armies. They gained ground also on the eastern Scheldt. The British Second Army attacked towards Hertogenbosch, and the American Third Army east of Nancy.

An Order of the Day by Marshal St ilin announces to-night that Russian troops have broken into East Prussia on a front of 110 miles, occupying over 400 towns and villages.

Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden returned yesterday from Moscow.

To-day Britain, U.S.A. and Russia have recognised General de Gaulle's administration as the Provisional Government of France.

In the Palais de Justice, Paris, to-day, Georges Suarez was sentenced to death for treason. Many other collaborators are to be tried.

" Couldn't be better ; everything going like clockwork," General MacArthur, C-in-C., South-Western Pacific, said yesterday, summing up progress in the campaign to free the Philippines. Tacloban, capital and principal port of Leyte Island, is in American hands, with its airfield. More than 100,000 troops have been got ashore.

*Wednesday, October 25th.*

Welsh infantry fought their way into Hertogenbosch to-day. The Canadians are thrusting into Beveland and have taken Fort Hendrik. The Second Army has gained ground south of Breda.

The Anglo-American air offensive continues almost hourly in immense strength. Over 2,200 heavy bombers attacked German targets to-day. Essen is still burning from Monday night's raid.

The Russians have crossed the Norwegian border, capturing the Arctic port of Kirkenes, and their advance continues in East Prussia, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. They have now freed the whole of Transylvania.

A party of Wrens who for four years helped maintain the Navy's light coastal craft at Dover, have now moved away to other tasks, with a record of service under fire of which any fighting unit might be proud. They were responsible for

maintaining the guns of the "little ships" which kept the Channel open to our shipping and waged unceasing warfare on the enemy's light naval forces and convoys.

A great air-sea battle is in progress in the Philippines.

*Friday, October 27th.*

Tilburg has fallen and the whole British-Canadian line in western Holland is advancing.

Reporting to the House of Commons to-day on the Moscow conference, Mr. Churchill said, "Let all hope of Allied discord die in German breasts." Problems of Poland and the Balkans were discussed, besides military questions.

Operations on the Italian front are still heavily handicapped by the weather, but the Eighth Army is now only four miles from Ravenna.

*Sunday, October 29th.*

British and Canadian troops are to-night sweeping on towards the River Maas. Polish infantry entered Breda to-day.

The *Tirpitz*, Germany's great 45,000-ton battleship, was attacked near Tromsø, Norway, this morning by Lancasters, which scored at least one direct hit with a 12,000-lb. "earthquake" bomb.

Cologne was heavily raided again last night. The Air Ministry states that the great armaments centre of Essen has now been almost entirely destroyed.

The armistice with Bulgaria was signed in Moscow yesterday by Britain, U.S.A. and Russia, and provides for the use of Bulgarian resources against Germany.

## THE SECOND BATTLE OF THE PHILIPPINE SEA

"This battle ranks as one of the major sea battles of World War No. 2 in the Pacific," says a communiqué issued at Pearl Harbour to-day by Admiral Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific.

The American Third and Seventh Fleets, with an Australian squadron, took part in the action.

The Japanese defeat unquestionably was the most crushing in the history of naval warfare. Never before, as far as can be ascertained, has any nation's fleet been so nearly destroyed.



Japanese losses were :—twenty-four ships sunk, including four aircraft carriers, two battleships, six heavy cruisers, and three light cruisers, thirteen so severely damaged that they may have sunk, and twenty-one damaged. 609,500 tons of combat shipping sunk or damaged. This total includes nine battleships. One hundred and seventy-one planes.

Every battleship and every aircraft-carrier in the Japanese fleets was sunk or badly damaged.

American losses were the light carrier *Princeton*, two escort-carriers, three destroyers, and several small ships.

*Tuesday, October 31st.*

The mouth of the Scheldt and the Antwerp approaches are now virtually clear. That is the fruit of the long and hardly contested October battles. Far away at Dunkirk there remains an almost innocuous force of some 15,000 Germans.

The Second Army operation, which began at Hertogenbosch nine days ago, has now practically completed the tasks of breaking the strong German defensive line opposite the western face of our Nijmegen corridor and of clearing the southern bank of the Lower Mass. British forces have reached the Maas at a point between Hertogenbosch and Geertruidenberg and split the pocket, but the enemy are retreating in order. South-West Holland has been liberated in the past month.

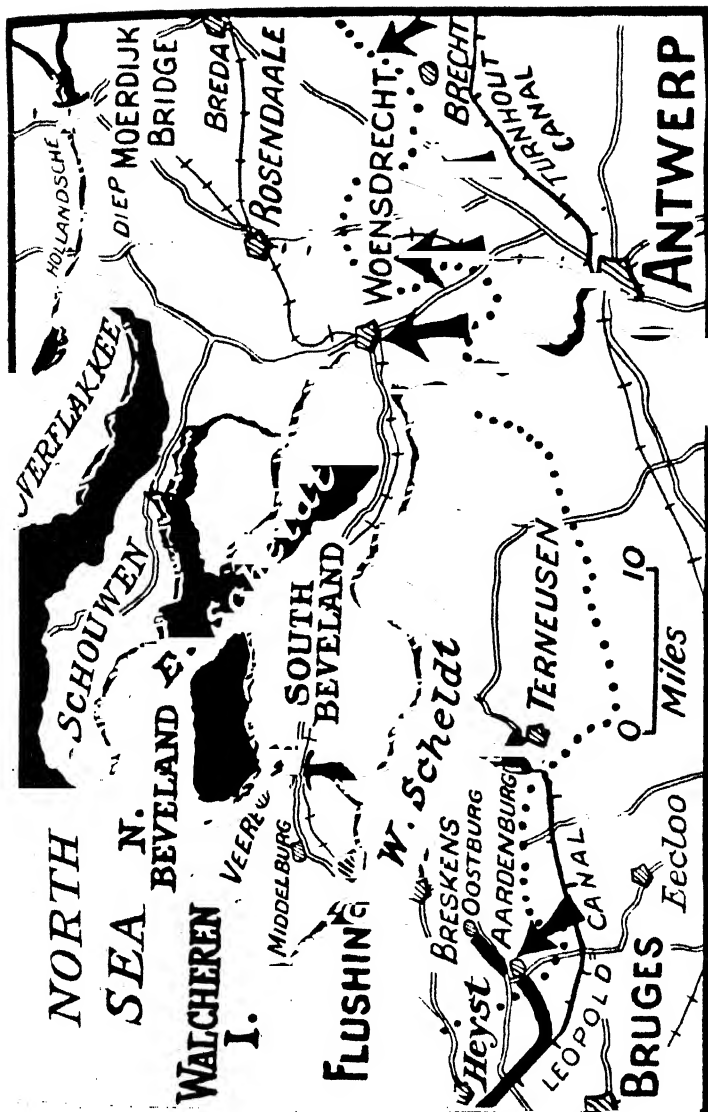
Cologne, the most battered of Rhineland cities, was raided again last night. Over 9,000 tons of bombs have been dropped on it in four days.

## NOVEMBER 1944

*Wednesday, November 1st.*

British commando troops with British and Canadian infantry landed at two points on the island of Walcheren at dawn to-day in a drive to neutralise the last enemy strong-point barring the way to Antwerp. This will be of enormous advantage in speeding up supplies for the front, for the great port of Antwerp was captured intact on September 14th.

By dusk most of Flushing was in our hands. Westkapelle had also been captured by Royal Marine Commandos by heroic efforts, a third foothold was gained by Canadians who



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broke into Walcheren from South Beveland after a fierce battle.

The attacks were preceded by heavy air, sea and land bombardment. The naval force, included the veteran battleship *Warspite*, and the monitors *Erebus* and *Roberts*, as well as rocket-firing landing-craft and other small ships. There were 200 vessels in the operation all told.

The Walcheren garrison numbers about 3,000, with many anti-aircraft guns which can be used for ground defence. Bitter resistance was met and casualties were heavy. "Normandy was a picnic compared with this," was the opinion of men who had been through the invasions of North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Normandy.

British patrols have reached the great Greek port of Salonika, which the Germans have completely destroyed. During their occupation they exterminated the colony of 65,000 Jews.

The Russians have cleared all Germans from the Petsamo region. In Hungary their capture of the road and railway junction of Kecskemet brings them within thirty-seven miles of Budapest.

The Free Yugoslav Radio (in Russia) has broadcast a statement that Marshal Tito has made an agreement with Dr. Subasic, Premier of the Royal Yugoslav Government in London, for the formation of a United National Government.

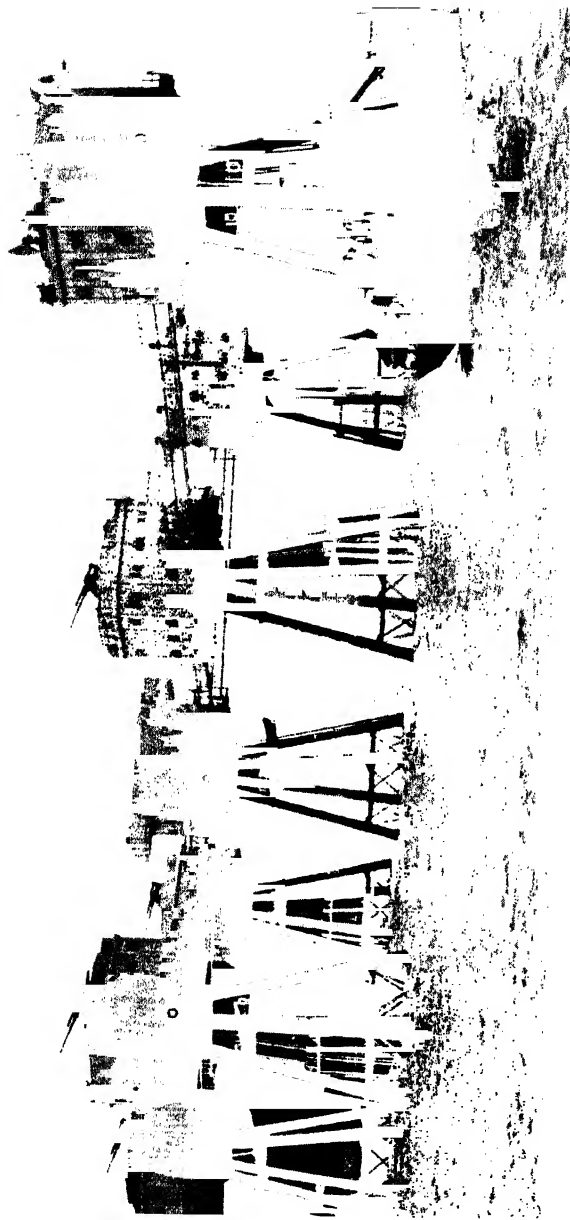
The Americans are still making good progress on Leyte.

#### WIPING OUT A GESTAPO H.Q.

The Gestapo H.Q. in Denmark, housed in two buildings in Aarhus University in Jutland, were wiped out yesterday in a spectacular low-level raid by twenty-four R.A.F. Mosquitoes escorted by a Polish squadron of Mustangs. So close to their objectives did the machines fly that one plane left a tail wheel on the roof and another buckled the engine nacelle.

The raid ranks for precision and daring with the attack last February on Amiens prison to release French patriots and the occasion on April 4th, when the central population registry at The Hague, with lists of Dutchmen marked down for deportation to Germany, was blown to pieces.

The raid was decided upon because the Gestapo has been tightening its hold on Denmark, to check the rising tide of resistance and sabotage, and this H.Q. contained thousands



# PARKS IN THE THAMES

One of the seven towered fairs open for the Thames. Study is a picture of a sheet from a page by Henry Jones. Standing on a river bank, looking at the water, the tops of the towers are visible in the distance. The towers are made of wood and have a conical or cylindrical shape. The ground is uneven and appears to be a field or tundra. The sky is bright and featureless.

*Henry Jones*



#### THE KING ON THE WESTERN FRONT

The King visits the Allied armies on the Western fronts. His Majesty, with Field Marshal Montgomery, is seen for the first time wearing battledress. (Photo: *The Times*.) At a different stage of his tour, he is talking with Gen. Eisenhower. (Photo: *Associated Press*.)

of dossiers of Danish patriots. The target had to be pinpointed for it was surrounded by other buildings, including two hospitals. A scale model was built for briefing the crews. The whole attack was over in ten minutes.

The leading navigator said to-day that everything went according to plan. "The weather was pretty dirty just before we reached the target, but it cleared to give us a good run up," he added. "I could see the bombs of the first section go squarely into the middle of the left-hand building."

Another pilot said: "We could see lots of people giving the 'V' sign and waving. One man who was ploughing in a field on the way to the target came to attention and saluted as we passed. Some of the Mosquitoes were less than ten feet above the buildings, and I saw a man duck as the bombs from the Mosquitoes ahead of me passed over his head on their way into the building."

A pilot going into the attack at low level saw "someone squirting at him with a machine-gun through one of the windows of the building. He resolved to squirt back so went down still lower and as a result left his tail wheel behind him on the roof."

Another remarkable incident was the freak behaviour of a bomb. This 500-pounder was dropped by one machine, and the pilot following in the next plane saw it strike the side of the building, turn upward as it entered, emerge through the roof and pass over his own plane before it went down again.

The avoidance of the hospital at Aarhus was the big problem, the squadron leader said. The hospital was not hit. "We were restricted to one line of attack and one angle, and this line was not entirely suitable because it took us right over their flak area. Both buildings we were after were demolished. When we left fire was raging in the shell of the buildings. Altogether we dropped 24,000-lb. of bombs."

Later it was learned that 175 German Gestapo officials and thirty-three Danish collaborators were killed and sixty-five wounded.

*Friday, November 3rd.*

All Belgium has now been liberated, with the crushing of all resistance, early this morning, in Zeebrugge and the "pocket" south of the Scheldt. Before dawn to-day a third landing was made on Walcheren Island. Flushing has been

cleared ; British infantry with fixed bayonets to-day charged through water waist-high to capture the German commander and his H.Q. Snow is falling.

The American First Army is gaining ground south-east of Aachen.

Flying bombs are now being launched against the troops in north-western France.

From to-day fire-guard duties in London are much reduced.

The awards of five Victoria Crosses were announced in last night's *London Gazette*, the largest number, so far in this war, made at one time. The recipients were :—Captain (Temporary Major) Robert Henry Cain, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, (attached South Staffordshire Regt., First Airborne Division)—at Arnhem ; Lieut. Tasker Watkins, Welch Regt.—in North-West Europe ; Corporal Sidney Bates, Royal Norfolk Regt.—North-west Europe ; Naik Yeshwant Ghadge, Fifth Mahratta Light Infantry, Indian Army—Italy ; Corporal Sefanala Sukanaivalu, Fiji Military Forces—Solomon Islands. Corporal Bates, Naik Ghadge and Corporal Sukanaivalu were all killed in the actions for which the awards were made. Corporal Sukanaivalu was the first non-European soldier from the Colonies to win the V.C. in this war.

*Monday, November 6th.*

The Battle of the Maas is over, having cost the Germans 80,000 men. They have withdrawn across the river, destroying the bridges. One thousand, two hundred square miles of Holland have been liberated.

More than 5,000 Allied planes struck at German war industries and communications in the twenty-four hours which ended yesterday afternoon, Bochum, Hanover, Frankfurt, Ludwigshaven, Solingen, Gelsenkirchen, Munich and Regensburg being among the targets.

Bucharest radio reported yesterday that Russian tanks had entered Budapest ; and Stockholm reported that Himmler has arrested Wilhelm Scheppmann, chief of the S.A. (Nazi Storm Troops) and the new Home Guard, for complicity in the attempt to assassinate Hitler.

Rangoon was heavily bombed on Friday, and Singapore yesterday, by American Super-Fortresses from Indian bases.

Marshal Stalin, speaking to-day on the eve of the Soviet

Union's Twenty-seventh Anniversary, said that Germany would be disarmed "militarily and economically" but was known to be preparing for another war. To prevent war in future an organisation must be created with sufficient armed forces to take action at once.

Lord Moyne, British Minister Resident in the Middle East, was assassinated in Cairo to-day.

*Wednesday, November 8th.*

President Franklin D. Roosevelt is now assured of re-election as President of U.S.A. for a fourth term of office. He has a clear lead over his opponent, Mr. Thomas Dewey.

To-night, for the first time since the Nazis seized power, Hitler failed to make his annual speech on the anniversary of the Munich beer-cellar "putsch" of 1923. German radio programmes made much of the new "secret weapon, V.2," and the People's Guard. They claimed that London had been under fire from V.2 since October. A powerful "ghost voice" interrupted the programmes to ask repeatedly, "Why does Hitler not speak? What is the matter with Hitler?"

The ancient city of Middelburg was taken yesterday by British and Canadian infantry in boats, and the whole of Walcheren is now in our hands.

The American Third Army to-day launched an offensive on a twenty-seven-mile front between Metz and Nancy, and advanced from one to three miles.

The Air Ministry announces that the Dortmund-Ems Canal was bombed again on Saturday, and has again been drained for many miles.

The Allies have complete sea and air domination of the Aegean. The remaining German garrisons in Crete, Rhodes and other islands, are absolutely isolated, while Lemnos, Chios, Santorin and many others have been liberated.

Two British N.C.O.'s who parachuted into Yugoslavia as radio operators with Marshal Tito's Partisans, were yesterday given Russian decorations, in Rome.

#### ANGRY MEN IN BURMA

Air-Chief-Marshal Sir Philip Joubert, Deputy Chief of Staff to Admiral Mountbatten in the South-East Asia Command, said to-day that there were 250,000 very angry white



men in Burma who were deeply concerned that what they were doing in the fighting against Japan was not being publicised at home. Apart from the British there were the Indian, Chinese and the American troops who were making a very valuable contribution to the general war effort. "Not only are they saving India, but they are knocking hell out of the Japanese," said Sir Philip.

He emphasised that the British and Indians were holding the biggest single front against the Japanese in the whole of the Pacific War. They had during last summer, engaged a bigger number of Japanese than any other force, and up-to-date had inflicted a larger number of casualties on the Japanese than any other force in the Pacific.

*Friday, November 10th.*

The American Third Army crossed the Moselle at two points yesterday, and to-day its tank spearheads are within two and a half miles of the German frontier. A great tank battle is developing. Metz is threatened with encirclement, just as it was threatened by American infantry and armour exactly twenty-six years ago, on November 10th, 1918, the last night of the First World War.

Field-Marshal Montgomery's armies last night held a continuous line along the south bank of the River Maas.

In Italy the important Po Valley communications centre of Forli fell yesterday to Hampshire and Highland infantry and Churchill tanks.

### THE ROCKET BOMBS

The first official admission that long-range rockets—Germany's secret V.2 weapon—have been falling on this country for several weeks, was made in the House of Commons to-day by Mr. Churchill. He said: "Last February I told Parliament that the Germans were preparing to attack this country by means of long-range rockets. For the last few weeks the enemy has been using this new weapon, and a number have landed at widely scattered points in this country. In all, the casualties and damage have so far not been heavy, though I am sure the House will wish me to express our sympathy with the victims of these attacks. . . . No official statement about the attack has hitherto been issued. Any announcement might have given information useful to the

enemy, and we were confirmed in this course by the fact that until two days ago the enemy had made no mention of this weapon in his communiqués. . . . Because of its high speed no reliable or sufficient public warning can in present circumstances be given. There is, however, no need to exaggerate the danger. The scale and effect of these attacks have not hitherto been significant. . . .

"The use of this weapon is another attempt by the enemy to attack the morale of our civil population in the vain hope that he may somehow by this means stave off the defeat which faces him in the field."

Although no newspaper mention was made before Mr. Churchill's announcement, there had been much public discussion of V.2 since September ; people in the target area are now accustomed to the terrific explosions or distant thuds which occur day and night. Many people are less disturbed by "V.2" than by the flying bomb, because no sound is heard until after the explosion.

*Sunday, November 12th.*

Mr. Churchill was greeted with tremendous enthusiasm to-day when he was given the freedom of Paris at the Hotel de Ville. He said that the British people and government wished to see a strong French army as soon as possible. Yesterday Britain, U.S.A. and Russia invited France to join the European Advisory Commission, and British troops took part in French Armistice Day observances.

In their maroon berets and camouflaged khaki tunics, six of the men of the Airborne Division who came back from Arnhem strode across the red-carpeted arena of the Albert Hall at the British Legion Festival of Remembrance on Saturday. They were acclaimed by afternoon and evening audiences totalling nearly 10,000 as the "Men of the New Brigade." They came last, on the heels of six red-coated Chelsea Pensioners, "the Boys of the Old Brigade," in the muster which opened this year's Armistice "Pageant of the Nation in Arms."

There is growing discussion of whether Hitler is ill, or dead. His voice has not been heard since July 21st.

On the Russian front, from Baltic to Balkans, operations are slowed up by the weather.

In Burma British troops are closing on the Japanese in the Bhamo-Katho area.

*Monday, November 13th.*

The Germans are withdrawing from the great fortified city of Metz, now nearly encircled. American tanks are only 18 miles from Saarbrücken. No movements are reported from the British, Canadian or American First Army sectors.

Much discussion and high feeling has been aroused in Canada by proposals to conscript men for service outside the Dominion. Hitherto only volunteers have gone overseas.

The Russians are closing on Budapest. There is panic in Vienna.

The Japanese offensive in south-east China has compelled the Americans to abandon and destroy the air-bases there.

#### THE END OF THE "TIRPITZ"

The Air Ministry announces to-night : "The *Tirpitz* has been sunk. Yesterday morning, twenty-nine Lancasters of R.A.F. Bomber Command, led by Wing Cmdr. J. B. Tait, D.S.O., D.F.C., and Squadron-Leader A. G. Williams, attacked the German battleship *Tirpitz* with 12,000-lb. bombs. There were several direct hits and within a few minutes the ship capsized and sank. One of our aircraft is missing."

It was the third attack on the *Tirpitz* with 12,000-lb. bombs, but the first time that the plane crews had been able to see her properly. Previously cloud, or the smoke-screen in which the battleship could be completely hidden in ten minutes, had handicapped the R.A.F. airmen. The success they have now scored—a triumph of aerial precision attack from a great height, possibly about 16,000 feet—was achieved largely by the development of the 12,000-lb. armour-piercing bomb.

The battleship was anchored in Tromsø Fjord. Flight-Lieut. B. A. Buckham, D.F.C., of Sydney, New South Wales, who piloted a Lancaster sent to film the attack, said that this time there was no smoke screen and the weather was ideal. "Now at last," he said, "we knew that we had our chance. The first bombs fell just beyond the ship. Agonising moments ! Then came three direct hits in quick succession, the first amidships, the next in the bows, and the third towards the stern.

"Her guns had been firing like blazes when we first arrived. but after the first bomb had hit her the guns stopped firing.

Not a shot came up after that. Smoke began to pour up. It spiralled at first in a column. Then it spread out over the doomed ship in the shape of a mushroom. Afterwards there several explosions. One of them was very big, and one of my crew shouted out over the inter-comm. : 'She's on fire, skipper, she's on fire.' The fire did not seem to last very long—not more than two or three minutes, I should say. It was difficult to see exactly what was happening at this stage. Smoke was pouring from the vessel and we could not see the *Tirpitz* clearly. Finally she capsized."

Mr. Churchill and the Admiralty have sent congratulations to Bomber Command. Since the *Tirpitz* was completed in 1941—she was laid down in 1936—her importance has been out of all proportion to her actual achievement. As a threat, her strategic value was that of a fleet in being, and capital ships had always to be kept ready to fight her if she should make any sortie. She was a perpetual menace to our convoys to Russia. The Germans believed her unsinkable.

#### DESTRUCTION OF A CONVOY

Fighting almost within hailing distance of the Norwegian coast and only thirty miles from the entrance to the Skagerrak, cruisers and destroyers under the command of Rear-Admiral Rhoderick McGrigor, practically wiped out a large escorted enemy convoy last night. A correspondent in H.M.S. *Kent* describes the action, which lasted half an hour. Then only four blazing hulks remained of eleven enemy ships totalling about 25,000 tons. The rest had been sunk, with the possible exception of an escort vessel.

The British warships engaged in this daring raid on the enemy's doorstep were the cruisers *Kent* and *Bellona* (Captain C. F. W. Norris), and the destroyers *Myngs* (Captain M. L. Power), *Verulam* (Lieut.-Commander M. Thornton), *Zambesi*, Lieut.-Commander W. Scott), and *Algonquin* (Lieut.-Commander D. W. Pierson). The *Algonquin* belongs to the Royal Canadian Navy.

I watched the battle from the bridge of H.M.S. *Kent*. For nearly two hours we had been steaming southwards at high speed along the Norwegian coast. As we passed Egersund Fjord shortly after 11 p.m. we saw the convoy coming north. It was almost dead in our track and spread over a distance

of 10 miles. The night was perfect for a surprise attack—very dark, with good visibility and a calm sea.

While we ranged our guns the enemy steamed unsuspectingly towards us. Four miles . . . three . . . two . . . Then we let them have it. They were taken completely by surprise. Our first 8-inch broadsides hit the leading escort vessels. I saw one rear out of the water, her screw turning idly. Then, silhouetted against the glowing sky, she slid bows first under the water. By this time another vessel was blazing like a coke oven.

The convoy scattered and began to fight back. Coloured tracer, interspersed with green and red distress signals, filled the air. Another ship was hit, evidently an ammunition carrier. She exploded with a brilliant red flash. A vicious line of splashes ran down the side of the *Kent*, although this ship must have been at least a mile and a half away.

Behind us the *Bellona* and the destroyers were twisting and turning with all their guns roaring. Everywhere around were blazing and sinking ships.

Captain Hawkins picked fresh targets for his gunnery officer, Lieut. H. J. A. Brooke, of Hampton Court Palace.

"Hit that one," he said.

"That one to the left, sir?"

"Yes, please."

The Gunnery Officer gave his technical orders down a voice-pipe. The fire-gong gave three short tings. We closed our eyes and waited for the flash and thunderous roar of our 8-inch guns. Eight glowing tracers showed our shells on the way. Then a flash and an explosion revealed where they had hit.

Once the Captain said: "Here, hit that one, Guns. He's firing at our destroyers." I saw the ship in question go up in a flash of red and green flame.

While I watched one ship blow up another was suffering the same fate from another quarter. Altogether I saw six ships destroyed; one sank, two exploded and three caught fire. The *Myngs* and the *Verulam* each torpedoed a ship, which instantly disintegrated. An escort vessel approached, firing hard. She was hit aft, and turned away to disappear in the darkness. A shore battery opened fire, and the look-out watching our disengaged side reported it. No one took any notice. At one time we were only two and a half miles from the shore.

After twenty minutes the enemy's fire had quietened considerably, and the Admiral ordered his squadron to re-form. As we drew away from the holocaust he saw there were still several ships afloat, and ordered the destroyers to go in and finish them off. At full speed the destroyers raced towards the shore. For a few moments there was utter blackness.

Then the star-shells started and we saw the destroyers charging in with their blazing guns. More flashes and explosions followed, but the battle had drifted under the fire of the shore batteries. The Admiral ordered the destroyers to join us. What further damage might be caused to the enemy was not worth the possible loss of a destroyer.

We steamed back the way we had come, leaving behind a shambles.

Rear-Admiral McGrigor, a fifty-one-year old Scotsman, whose home is near Aberdeen, chuckled as he said to me after the action : " We caught the Hun in his nightshirt this time. His shore batteries didn't interfere until a quarter of an hour after the show started, though once I was so close to the land I had to alter course to avoid a shallow patch. But I'll give their ships their due, they fought back very courageously."

British casualties were two men killed and seven wounded.

*Thursday, November 16th.*

Six Allied armies are now attacking on a 350-mile front from the Maas to the Swiss border.

On Tuesday the British Second Army under General Dempsey opened a new attack south-east of Eindhoven, towards Venlo, and to-day a strong offensive was launched north and south of Aachen by the American First and Ninth Armies. Their Third Army has now taken four of the nine forts surrounding Metz. In the south their Seventh Army is gaining ground towards Strasbourg, and the French First Army is advancing on Belfort. Air support is very powerful. To-day over 3,000 planes were employed against tactical objectives in Duren, Julich and Heinsberg.

There are many reports of growing defeatism and even resistance in Germany. Himmler appears to be taking complete control.

Mr. Churchill, who returned from France on Tuesday, said in the House of Commons to-day that after the defeat of

Germany housing and furniture would be given priority second only to the defeat of Japan.

Skoplje has been occupied by Yugoslav and Bulgarian forces. British gunners who fought at Arnhem and commando troops who took part in the Dieppe raid are among the British forces of all arms engaged alongside the Partisans in the battle of the escape routes in Yugoslavia. The R.A.F. Regiment are also there, with armoured cars and anti-tank guns. The British and the Partisans are extending their hold on the coastal belt and the Russians and Bulgarians are advancing westwards on a front running from Belgrade to Vranje.

#### AN ENGLISH GIRL IN THE F.F.I.

While Londoners cheered yesterday the 200 young men and women of the French Forces of the Interior who marched through the streets, they did not realise that among them was an English girl. Denise Blaxhall, aged nineteen, was the only English girl in the French underground movement. Though only a schoolgirl at the time of the collapse of France, she has been a member of the Maquis since the summer of 1940.

They looked very young as they went through the scarred streets of London, with a band of the Scots Guards playing French marches in front of them. Many were no more than eighteen or nineteen years old. The fifty girls of the F.F.I. were dressed in black leather jerkins with a thick leather belt, blue skirt and thick mountaineering boots.

*Saturday, November 18th.*

Although bad weather has hampered air support, Allied pressure is being maintained along the whole western front.

Air-Chief-Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory is reported missing. He left by plane on Tuesday, to take up his new appointment as Air Officer C.-in-C., South-East Asia Command. Lady Leigh-Mallory was with him.

Russian assault units have broken into Budapest.

#### JAPANESE CRUELTY

All Australia was shocked to-day by revelations of the savagery with which British prisoners were treated by the Japanese in the ship which was torpedoed in the Western

Pacific in September. About 1,300 men were crammed into a hold of the ship intended to accommodate 187 passengers. After subjecting the prisoners to untold privations—as many as 100 were ill at a time through thirst, hunger, fetid atmosphere and exposure to the tropical sun—the Japanese panicked when the ship was torpedoed. They left the Allied men to drown. Mr. Forde, the Acting Prime Minister, making a statement in the House of Representatives, gave many other details of Japanese brutality. It is estimated that 2,000 of the 10,000 Australian prisoners in Burma and Siam have

*Sunday, November 19th.*

Battle-front messages to-night indicated that the Germans were everywhere being forced back to the Rhine.

Geilenkirchen, the important Siegfried Line strongpoint north of Aachen, fell to a combined British-American attack at 1 p.m. to-day. American First Army troops advanced four miles across minefields in the dark to reach the suburbs of Eschweiler, on the motor road to Cologne. Tanks are striving to break out into the Cologne Plain. The enemy is expected to stand on the River Roer.

Street fighting with the Volkssturm (Hitler's Home Guard) continued inside Metz, with the fortress encircled as the last escape road was cut. North of Metz the Germans withdrew and tanks crossed the border into the Saar in five places. Roads east from Metz were choked with fleeing transport, which was hammered mercilessly by Allied fighter-bombers. Prisoners now exceed 11,000.

General de Gaulle, broadcasting from Paris to-night, revealed that the French Army three days ago launched an offensive on a 60-mile front from the Vosges to the Swiss frontier. They had taken 10,000 prisoners.

A big demonstration staged by the Belgian resistance groups against the Government's decision to disarm them, passed off peacefully in Brussels to-day. About the same time a communiqué issued by the Shaeff Military Mission to Belgium announced that an agreement for the surrender of arms had been reached with the leaders of the movement.

It is announced that a great oil pipe-line from India is supplying Assam and Upper Burma and that it is to be extended into China.

Berlin reports a Russian offensive in Latvia.



*Monday, November 20th.*

Belfort has fallen to the French. Their tanks have reached the Rhine south of Mulhouse. The Allies are advancing along most of their line, but in the north resistance is stiffening. The Luftwaffe is coming up in greater strength, and using jet-propelled planes, especially for reconnaissance.

*Tuesday, November 21st.*

The French have taken Mulhouse and are sweeping north along the Rhine. The Germans are withdrawing along a 100-mile front in the Vosges. Colmar, Strasbourg and Merzig and Venlo are threatened. In Metz 3,100 prisoners have been taken. The Germans will fight it out west of the Rhine, said General Eisenhower to-day, which is "Invasion Day plus 168."

A V.2 launching site in Holland was bombed "dead on the target" by Australian fighter-bombers to-day. German oil-centres were raided by 3,000 planes.

### FIGHTING YARD BY YARD

The battle of the Eschweiler salient continues in a country of mud, with streams in angry spate beneath low, rain-filled clouds, writes Peter Lawless, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent. We attacked this morning through thick forest at 9 a.m., and, as before, our progress was difficult in the extreme. We advanced less than a mile against intensive artillery and mortar fire. It is difficult terrain, dotted with little villages and hamlets. Every one of these is a potential strongpoint for a stubborn enemy and has to be cleared up. But the enemy has got to go, and he knows it, and by to-day he had withdrawn many anti-aircraft batteries to the east of the Roer.

The going is harder in the woods to the south-west of Duren, where we are forcing our way through to the east. Here, where it is difficult to see more than a few yards even in daylight, there are all sorts of queer happenings. More than once Germans have joined our patrols by mistake. The enemy can be undiscovered until we are almost upon him and then call down heavy mortar fire and bring all his small arms to bear. He is helped, too, by the mass of anti-personnel mines when they explode in a dense cloud of black

smoke and at once provide a ready target for enemy mortars.

Another extraordinary case of infiltration or lost bearings occurred last night. A commanding officer went to his room to get a few hours' sleep and found two Germans under his bed. He killed them, and while their bodies were being removed, his staff decided it would be as well to search the rest of the house. In an upstairs room were three Germans who were calmly sniping. They, too, were killed.

A medical officer on his way to the front yesterday was suddenly confronted by a German N.C.O. who threw away his helmet and arms indicating that he wished to give himself up, together with his twelve men. As he approached he realised that the doctor was not armed, and quickly changed his mind. The doctor, in the excitement of the moment and having no arms, lashed out with his fists, and a fight fiercer than most of those seen in the ring was staged. I am sorry to say that the doctor got the loser's end of the purse, but by that time the German had decided that he would surrender after all. So the doctor led back the N.C.O. and twelve men and got treatment for his black eye.

#### *Thursday, November 23rd.*

Paris radio reported to-night that the great Rhine city of Strasbourg had been liberated by General Leclerc's famous French Second Armoured Division. The French have made other advances in Alsace. To the north five Allied armies continue to battle forward to the three rivers on which the German frontier defences are based—the Maas in Holland and the Roer and the Saar in Germany itself. Eschweiler fell to the American Second Army yesterday morning, and in the afternoon the liberation of Metz was announced.

The Air Ministry has revealed two secrets to-day: the Master Bomber technique, by which a bombing force is commanded from the air over the target, with greatly increased efficiency; and the mounting of a 6-pounder gun under Mosquitoes of Coastal Command, which have used it with deadly effect against U-boats.

The Canadian Government has decided that men conscripted for home service can be sent overseas.

A comprehensive forecast of the future of the British Empire and of the United States was delivered at the Albert

Hall, London, to-night, when Mr. Churchill and Mr. Winant, the American Ambassador, were present at a great Thanksgiving Day celebration. "There was a greater Thanksgiving Day which still shone ahead," said the Prime Minister, "when this union of action, forced on us by war against tyranny, should become a lasting union of sympathy and feeling and loyalty and hope between all the British and American peoples." Mr. Winant spoke of the common ideals of the English-speaking peoples, adding: "When the strife is over and the battle done, grant us brotherhood for the years to come." The celebration, entitled "To You, America," was under the auspices of the American and British Commonwealth Association and sponsored by *The Daily Telegraph*. The entire proceeds were given to King George's Fund for Sailors.

#### WATCHING V.2

The launching of V.2 rockets aimed at London has been seen by crews of R.A.F. Coastal Command operating at night over Dutch waters.

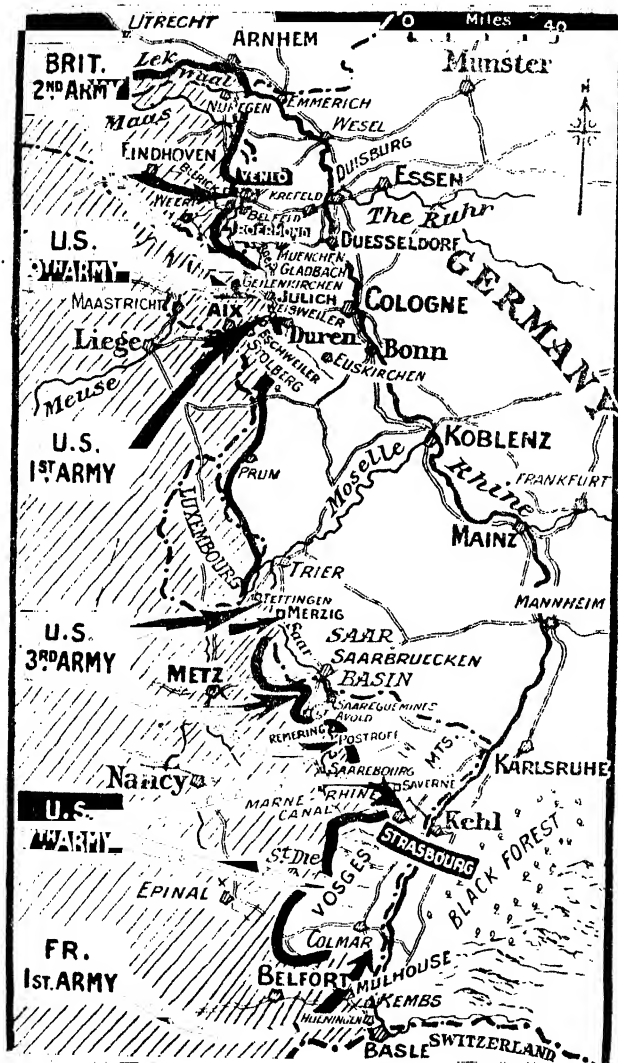
Flight-Lieut. F. G. Sutton, of London, said: "The projectile left the ground in a very large burst of yellow flame and rose at a steep angle. We were at about 1,500 feet and it came towards me at great speed. Within a second or two it was obscured by cloud." One of the crew added that the rapidly moving pinpoint of light almost immediately became indistinguishable among the stars.

The second rocket was seen to rise from another point in Holland. It climbed almost vertically at extreme speed and caused a distinct glow in the clouds as it passed through them.

Rockets continue to fall in England, causing casualties and damage, and flying bombs are occasionally launched against London by Heinkels over the North Sea.

#### *Friday, November 24th.*

The battle for the road to Cologne from the north has intensified to-day. In the Aachen gap, where bad weather has deprived the Allies of air support, the enemy are counter-attacking very heavily. American Third Army tanks, having crossed the Saar south of Saarbrücken, are in Alsace and French patrols are reported to have crossed the Rhine. Over



Daily Telegraph

THE WESTERN FRONT AND THE ALLIED OFFENSIVES

40,000 prisoners have been taken since this offensive began.

Oesel Island, which commands the Gulf of Riga, has been taken by the Russians. They are making progress also in Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

British troops fought their way across the Cosina river and canal early this morning, in some of the fiercest hand-to-hand engagements of the Italian war, and so turned the defences of Faenza.

Tokyo was bombed in daylight to-day, by a large force of Super-Fortresses, which made a round trip of 3,000 miles from their new bases on Saipan, in the Marianas. Large fires were caused in industrial areas. This is the second raid on the Japanese capital, the first having been made by carrier aircraft on April 18th, 1942.

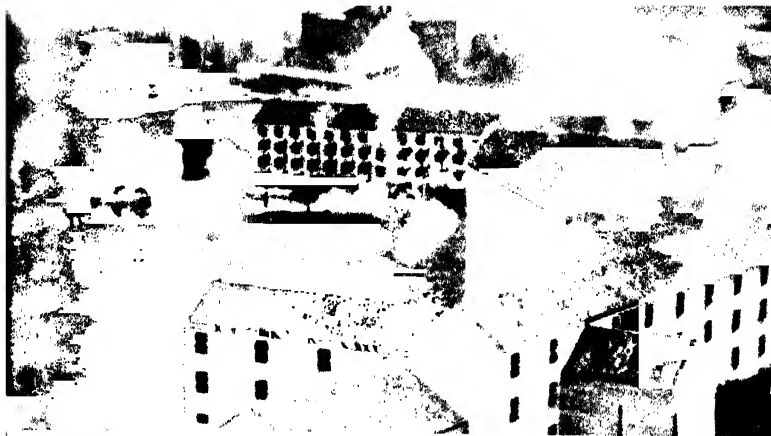
*Sunday, November 26th.*

Four German H.Q. in north-west Holland were smashed by rocket-firing Typhoons to-day. Clearer skies brought 2,000 fighter-bombers into action. Weisweiler, 20 miles from Cologne, has been taken by Americans after three days bitter street-fighting. In the Vosges 50,000 Germans are cut off. Shell shortage is causing concern in U.S.A.

To-day and yesterday American bombers have made very heavy raids on German oil plants. V.2 attacks are being diminished by raids on German communications.

Demonstrations by resistance groups have produced a tense situation in Brussels, but the Belgian Premier, M. Pierlot, announces that the Government will not yield to minority threats.

East African troops of the British Fourteenth Army, who are fighting through the gorge leading to Kalewa, are now only seven miles from this Chindwin port. Its capture would bring the British to a narrow valley leading to the plains of Central Burma. The Japanese in the gorge are well-entrenched and are resisting stubbornly. Farther north, Allied troops have opened a new sector on the Fourteenth Army front. Crossing the Chindwin, they have captured Nanbon, a village 12 miles east of the river and south-east of Sittaung. In Upper Burma the Chinese in the Bhamo area made slight gains and captured a Japanese strongpoint at the southern end of the airstrip. The British 36th Division is advancing steadily in the railway corridor towards Pinwe.



#### THE END OF A GESTAPO HEADQUARTERS

These two pictures, taken during the Mosquito attack at Aarhus, show the accuracy of the low level bombing, which hit the Gestapo buildings and left untouched other—near at hand!—that were not targets.

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#### V2 ROCKET-BOMB CRATER

A view of the crater formed by the first long range German rocket shell.

*(Photo : Associated Press)*

Allied aircraft have attacked river craft and rolling-stock in the Chindwin region. On Friday heavy bombers raided railways in Siam.

*Monday, November 27th.*

The American Third Army now holds a front of 20 miles in Germany. St. Avold and Franz fell to-day.

The greatest fighter air-battle of the war was fought out over Germany to-day. Nearly 900 American and German planes took part ; the Nazis lost ninety-eight planes in the air and four on the ground. This was the second air defeat for the Luftwaffe in twenty-four hours. On Sunday they lost 138 planes, 130 in combat, and eight on the ground.

Some details are given of the "black box" or "gen box," developed by British scientists, which enables Allied pilots to see their targets through thick cloud.

Many people were killed in a terrific explosion at an R.A.F. depot near Burton-on-Trent to-day.

#### SIX THOUSAND MILLION CANDLE-POWER

As the Allied drive through the Saar valley reached its peak the American Third Army command was anxious to learn what was going on under cover of darkness at Saarbrücken, the major railroad centre of the Saar area. Daylight reconnaissance had shown little activity along the rail lines there.

Last night Havoc reconnaissance bombers photographed Saarbrücken's marshalling yards by the light of six magnesium flash-bombs, each giving a light of 1,000,000,000 candle-power for one-20,000th part of a second. The photographs showed dozens of locomotives shunting more than 700 coaches of troops and equipment. To-night 800 bombers wrecked the yards.

*Wednesday, November 29th.*

To-day the American Seventh Army struck north from Strasbourg to within 12 miles of the German frontier. The Third Army now threatens the whole Saar basin, a vital industrial region. The First Army is advancing on Cologne. The Ninth Army has reached the Roer on a five and a half mile front.

In a new offensive in Yugoslavia and Southern Hungary



the Russians have forced the Danube on a front of ninety-four miles, taking the important junctions of Pecs and Batazek.

With the approach of victory, the silence officially imposed as to Britain's prodigious war effort has been broken by the War Cabinet with the issuing to-night of a White Paper. Here are some of our achievements of the past five years :

*Planes* :—We built a total of 102,609, including 10,018 heavy bombers, 17,702 medium and light bombers, and 38,025 fighters. Production of heavy bombers increased from forty-one in 1940 to 2,889 in the first six months of 1944, and of fighters from 110 a month in 1939 to 940 in the first half of 1944. Bomb-loads increased from an average of 1·2 tons in 1939 to four tons in 1943. *Tanks* :—25,116. *Munitions* :—35,130 guns, including 21,618 anti-aircraft guns ; 3,729,921 machine-guns and sub-machine guns ; 2,001,949 rifles ; 919,111 wheeled vehicles for the Services. The monthly output in the first six months of 1944 was six times that at the outbreak of war. Seven-tenths of the total supply to the British Commonwealth and Empire were produced by the United Kingdom and one-tenth by other Empire countries. The remaining one-fifth came from the United States. *Warships* :—722 major vessels of 1,353,961 standard displacement tons, 1,386 mosquito craft and 3,636 other vessels. *Merchant Ships* :—4,500,000 gross tons (6,750,000 deadweight tons) of new ships. *Food* :—Increased by at least 70 per cent. in terms of calories and proteins. This increased home production made possible the halving of food imports. Ninety-eight thousand men withdrawn from agriculture and replaced by 117,000 women.

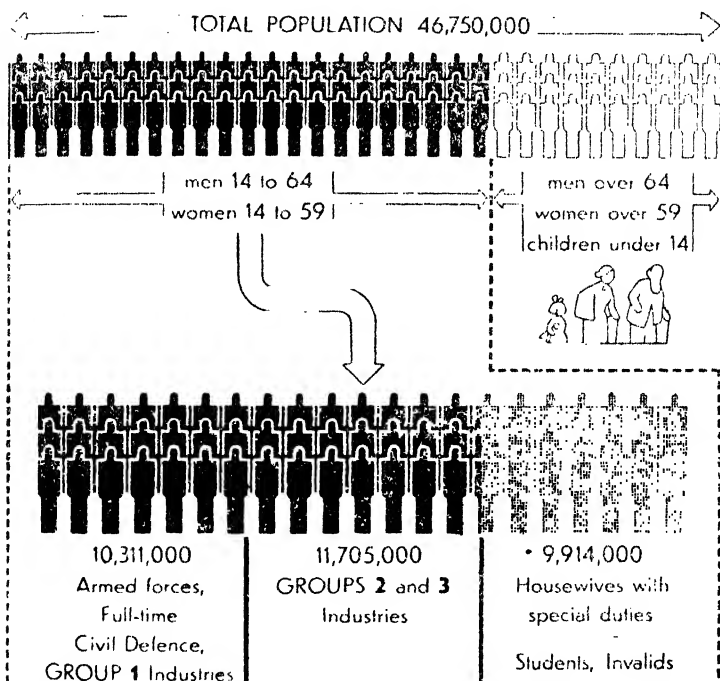
*Fighting Services* :—In 1938 the Armed Forces numbered 384,000. In July, 1944, the number was 4,500,000. The Women's Auxiliary Services expanded between 1939 and 1944 to 467,000. *War Service* :—22,000,000 men and women in the active age groups (men aged 14–64, women aged 14–59) have been mobilised for direct war service in the Forces or in industry. This is 69 per cent. of the total number of people between these ages in Great Britain. Seven million women, aged 18–40, were in the Services or in industry in 1943. In 1944, 14,896,000, which was 93·6 per cent. of the total number of men between the ages of 14–65, were in the Forces, Civil Defence Services or industry.

*Imports* :—Cut from an average of 55,000,000 tons a year before the war to 22,900,000 tons in 1942 and 26,000,000 tons

## STORY OF THE WAR, 1944

### Britain mobilised with all her might

The whole big story in one little picturegraph



GROUP 1 Industries: Munitions and all warlike stores, i.e. engineering, aircraft, motors, shipbuilding and repairing, metal and metal goods manufacture, chemicals, explosives, oils, etc.

GROUP 2 Industries: All basic industries and services including agriculture, mining, government service, gas, water, transport, food, etc.

GROUP 3 Industries: Building, civil engineering, clothing, distributive trades, commerce and professional services.

in 1943. *Exports* cut to 29 per cent. of the figure for 1938. *Taxation* :—Direct taxation increased from £494,000,000 in 1938 to £1,781,000,000 in 1943. Indirect taxation increased from £582,000,000 to £1,249,000,000. *War Expenditure* :—Nearly £25,000,000,000. Overseas assets to the value of £1,065,000,000 have been sold to pay for import of war materials. New overseas liabilities totalling £2,300,000,000 incurred.

*Casualties* :—In the five years from September 3rd, 1939 to September 3rd, 1944, the total casualties in all ranks of the Armed Forces were 563,112, including 176,081 killed and 38,275 missing. Merchant Seamen killed, 29,629. Civilians killed 57,298 ; injured 78,818, including 23,757 women and 7,250 children killed. *Other Losses* :—Homes damaged or destroyed, 4,500,000, nearly one in every three of all in the United Kingdom ; totally destroyed, 202,000 ; 255,000 uninhabitable. 2,931 ships of 11,643,000 gross tons lost.

In Canada and U.S.A. there have been many expressions of astonishment and admiration at these facts. Mr. Brendan Bracken, Minister of Information, commenting on the White Paper says that the total war effort of the population of Great Britain per head is greater than that of any other belligerent.

*Thursday, November 30th.*

The American Ninth Army has taken Lindern and Boock.

Germany's oil plants have once again been heavily bombed.

In spite of adverse weather conditions, British and American bombers dropped over 102,000 tons of bombs on industrial Germany during November, mainly on rail centres behind the front and on the vitally important Ruhr heavy industries. Of this huge tonnage, 1,000 tons heavier than October's offensive, the R.A.F. contributed 53,000 tons (about 59,000 American tons).

Antwerp, the greatest intact supply port of north-west Europe, is now operating for the Allies.

Mr. Churchill is seventy years old to-day.

## DECEMBER 1944

*Friday, December 1st.*

The American Third Army to-day reached the Saar on a 10-mile front between Merzig and Saarlautern. The ferocious struggle for the Roer crossings continues. Many more flying bombs are now being sent against the Allied rear areas in Belgium and Holland. The French and Americans are still advancing in Alsace.

Jeeps and six-pounder anti-tank guns dropped by parachute to British airborne forces in their Western Front operations. were in action two hours after leaving Britain, it is officially stated. Dropping a jeep or gun by parachute involves it hitting the ground at about 16 miles an hour. To prevent damage a container was designed, including quick-release gear for freeing the parachutes after reaching the ground.

The Allied air forces yesterday marked the sixth day of their non-stop offensive against Germany with a series of concentrated attacks. Targets were again oil installations and lines of communication. Heavy bombers from Italy joined in the attack. Very heavy flak (anti-aircraft fire) was encountered.

Princess Elizabeth launched recently the latest addition to Britain's fleet ; a battleship, described by Mr. Alexander, as " the greatest yet launched in the British Isles," which, " will sail in tropical waters."

An agreement on the future of Lend-Lease was announced simultaneously yesterday in London and Washington. In a month Britain will be able to resume the export of many goods, particularly those produced by the iron and steel industries.

The Russians last night were at the River Kapos, the German's main line of defence before the Lake Balaton area, which guards the approaches to the Austrian frontier. Budapest is preparing for a siege.

*Sunday, December 3rd.*

Saarlautern has fallen to the Americans with its bridge intact and they are across the Saar. British infantry, led by

flail tanks (to explode mines) and medium bombers, are attacking Venlo.

Kalewa, the important Chindwin River port, one of the main centres for river traffic south to Mandalay, has been captured by East African troops. The capture of this town will give impetus to the combined Fourteenth Army drive from east of the Chindwin, but the rough country and the extraordinary supply difficulties must be taken into consideration.

E.A.M., the Greek Left-Wing Liberation organisation, announced to-night that fifteen persons were killed and 148 wounded in four main clashes with the police in Athens to-day. In a broadcast to the nation to-night, the Prime Minister, M. Papandreou, said : " In the name of the people we denounce the leaders of the extreme Left as preparing the way to civil war, which would be a mortal misfortune for our country." British Sherman tanks, scout cars, armoured cars and jeeps carrying Bren guns are patrolling the streets and guarding the Greek police H.Q. British troops in battle kit are stationed along the main thoroughfares.

General De Gaulle arrived in Moscow yesterday to see Marshal Stalin.

### THE KING'S FAREWELL TO THE HOME GUARD

In the presence of the King, contingents of Home Guards from all over Britain and Northern Ireland to-day held their final parade following the recent "stand-down" order. From now they cease to exist as a force in being, but remain ready to answer in any emergency.

His Majesty took the salute in Hyde Park from 7,000 Home Guards. They marched through the West End of London on a three miles' long route lined with cheering crowds. The King was accompanied by the Queen, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret. Representatives of the United Nations and the Forces were also at the saluting base. Others present were the Secretary for War, Sir James Grigg, and the First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Alexander.

Broadcasting to the nation to-night, the King said :— ' Four years ago, in May, 1940, our country was in mortal danger. The most powerful army the world had ever seen had forced its way to within a few miles of our coast. From day to day we were threatened with invasion. In those days

our Army had been gravely weakened. A call went out for men to enrol themselves in a new citizen army, the Local Defence Volunteers, ready to use whatever weapons could be found and to stand against the invader in every village and every town. . . . Almost overnight a new force came into being, a force which had little equipment, but was mighty in courage and determination. In July, 1940, the Local Defence Volunteers, became the Home Guard.

"During those four years of continuing anxiety that civilian army grew in strength. . . . It was well known to the enemy that if he came to any part of our land he would meet determined opposition, at every point in his advance, from men who had good weapons and, better still, knew how to use them. In that way the existence of the Home Guard helped much to ward off the danger of invasion. Then, too, our own plans for campaigns in many parts of the world depended on our having a great citizen force to help in the defence of the homeland. As anti-aircraft and coastal gunners, as sentries at vulnerable points, as units for dealing with unexploded bombs and in many other ways, the Home Guard have played a full part in the defence of their country. . . .

"I am very proud of what the Home Guard has done, and I give my heartfelt thanks to you all. Officers, non-commissioned officers and men, you have served your country with a steadfast devotion. I know that your country will not forget that service."

*Tuesday, December 5th.*

British tanks opened fire in Athens this afternoon for the first time since the street fighting began on Sunday. They intervened to end a battle between rival partisans of the Left-wing E.L.A.S. organisation and the democratic E.D.E.S. during an attack on the E.D.E.S. H.Q. in Station Square. While planes reconnoitred overhead, sporadic fighting continued the street battles of yesterday in which, the police estimated, 100 people were killed and perhaps 250 wounded. British troops, guarding a prison, suffered casualties. British crews manned equipment, tugs and lighters at Piræus, the Port of Athens, to unload hundreds of tons of relief supplies for the Greeks held up by the strike.

Mr. Churchill faced a barrage of questions in the House of

Commons to-day after making a statement on the recent occurrences in Athens. He said that until the Greek people had chosen their Government the British Government would not hesitate to use the considerable British Army in Greece—which was being reinforced—to maintain law and order. This declaration was loudly cheered on the Conservative side of the House. The Speaker resisted strong pressure from the Socialist benches to allow the subject to be debated as a matter of “urgent and definite public importance.”

The ancient city of Ravenna, on the Adriatic, was occupied last night by the 27th Lancers.

British and American bombers and fighters yesterday continued the vast assault on Germany's railway system.

The Red Army now firmly holds the initiative along a stretch of more than 500 miles on the Eastern Front. From the Polish-Czech border right down into Yugoslavia the German and Hungarian forces are retreating before a closely co-ordinated offensive by three Russian armies.

*Wednesday, December 6th.*

R.A.F. Spitfires fired on E.L.A.S. forces during the Athens fighting to-day. The partisans were holding trenches at the foot of the Temple of Jupiter. British paratroops, supported by tanks, took the building which the partisans were using as their H.Q. this morning. A communiqué from the H.Q. of General Scobie, G.O.C., Greece, said: “E.L.A.S. activity in the Athens and Piræus area was reduced in scale last night. Before dawn to-day E.L.A.S. troops began to advance into the Government quarter in Athens, which is guarded by British troops. British troops opposed their advance and fighting ensued, which still continues. . . . British troops suffered casualties, including some killed. . . . In the Piræus the situation is quiet. In the remainder of Greece there have been no major developments. There is definite evidence that a number of ex-German soldiers are being employed in the E.L.A.S. ranks.”

The three organisations involved, explains the *Daily Telegraph* are:—E.A.M; a Left-Wing political organisation. The initials are of three Greek words meaning National Liberation Front.—E.L.A.S.; the military organisation of E.A.M. The Greek words mean National Popular Liberation

Army.—E.D.E.S. ; National Democratic Liberation Army, Right Wing.

British public opinion is hotly divided on the subject of our taking military action against E.L.A.S.

American Third Army troops have reached Sarreguemines, south of which a fierce tank battle is being fought.

It is estimated that 20,000,000 Germans are homeless as a result of Allied bombing.

“Red Devils” of Arnhem went to Buckingham Palace to-day to receive their medals from the King. They were sixty-one of the *élite* company of maroon-beretted parachute and glider officers and men who dropped out of Dutch skies ahead of our advancing armies and fought for nine glorious days before the gallant survivors were forced to withdraw. Five hundred of their comrades marched behind them into the Palace and stood beside them at the most crowded investiture yet held. They were cheered by a great crowd.

In Hungary the Russians have reached the gap between the River Drava and Lake Balaton, forty miles from the Austrian border.

The International Aviation Conference now meeting in Chicago decided to-night that the headquarters of the provisional international air organisation should be established in Canada, and twenty-one states were elected to the Council. Russia did not take part.

*Friday, December 8th.*

The Siegfried Line, Germany’s “West Wall,” was penetrated yesterday for the first time north of Saarlautern, where American troops are fighting against desperate German attempts to close the breach. The Allies are meeting strong opposition all along the front. Shaef announces that the ports of Le Havre and Rouen are now in full working order.

British policy concerning partisan insurrections in liberated countries was laid down plainly and decisively by the Prime Minister to-day in an 80-minute fighting speech in the House of Commons. The specific issue was the disturbances in Athens ; but he dealt with the whole question of British intervention in Europe, and said that no sectional bodies would be allowed to seize power by force. On this broad issue the House, by 279 votes to 30, gave the expression of



confidence in the Government which the Prime Minister demanded.

Fighting in Athens continues. A general strike has been declared in Salonika, bringing relief measures there to a standstill. British casualties in Athens have been very light.

The Japanese in Kweichow province have captured Tushan and Tuyun during the past three weeks, and Kunming and Chungking are threatened. They are evidently making every effort to prevent the Allies from using China as a base from which to invade Japan. This is the gravest peril China has faced in the seven-and-a-half years of war.

#### V.2.—THE ROCKET BOMB

First official details about V.2 were given by the Air Ministry to-night. It weighs about twelve tons, has a warhead of 2,000-lb. of explosive and travels at 3,000 miles an hour. Its present range is about 200 miles. It is 46 feet long and 5 feet, 6 inches in diameter, streamlined with a sharply-pointed nose, carrying four large external stabilising fins. The rumbling sound like thunder after the explosion is the noise of the passage of the rocket through the air, which is not heard before because the rocket is travelling so much faster than sound. The weight of explosive is about the same as that in the warhead of the V.1 flying bomb. Damage caused is generally about the same as V.1.

For launching the rocket stands in a vertical position on a concrete platform or hard surface. The turbine, driven by super-heated steam produced by mixing very concentrated hydrogen peroxide with calcium permanganate solution, is started up. It drives the pumps which force the liquid oxygen and alcohol into the combustion chamber. This mixture is then ignited electrically from some distance away and the rocket takes off. The products of combustion are forced out at a high speed through the orifice in the rear end as a jet of very hot gases.

The rocket first climbs vertically, but is later tilted gyroscopically at an angle of 45 degrees and the fuel supply cut off, either by radio control or by automatic instruments. This determines the range. It rises to a height of 60 miles before falling to the earth, still following a parabolic path. It takes about five minutes in flight, from Holland to England.



CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY, AND THE RUSSIAN OFFENSIVES

Daily Telegraph

V.2 indicates the kind of weapons with which the Third World War will be fought if there is one.

*Monday, December 11th.*

Three American armies are battering their way towards the Rhine against bitter opposition. The British-Canadian front remains quiet.

The greatest American air force yet sent against Germany, 1,600 heavy bombers and over 800 escorting fighters (manned by 16,800 airmen) raided Frankfurt, Hanau and Giessen to-day. Twelve bombers and two fighters were lost. The R.A.F. bombed Osterfeld, Hanover, Hamburg and other targets.

Antwerp, Liège and London are still under fire from flying bombs.

Field-Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean theatre, is proceeding to Athens, on the instructions of Mr. Churchill and the War Cabinet. He will join Mr. Harold Macmillan, Minister Resident in the Mediterranean, who leaves Italy for Greece to-day, in efforts to put an end to the fighting in Greece. This will be Field-Marshal Alexander's first task on assuming his new duties as C.-in-C. in the Mediterranean, which he takes over to-morrow from General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson. British reinforcements are arriving at Athens, where E.L.A.S. now have a force estimated at 25,000. Of these half are inside the city.

Deadly fighting is now raging on three sides of Budapest since Marshal Malinovsky has launched a general assault on the Hungarian capital.

The Germans have launched a full-scale counter-offensive against British troops of the Eighth Army who crossed the Lamone River south-west of Faenza.

A treaty of alliance and mutual assistance was signed by France and Russia in Moscow yesterday.

A powerful British fleet, under Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser, is now in the Far East.

Advanced Allied units are now within 200 miles of Mandalay.

Ormoc, the last Japanese-held port on Leyte Island, in the Philippines, was taken by the Americans yesterday.

*Wednesday, December 13th.*

Yesterday the American Seventh Army charged through the Maginot Line to Seltz, a mile from the Rhine. To-day their First Army drove into the Siegfried Line south of Duren. The watch on the Rhine has begun.

In Greece fighting continues and the case for and against British intervention is still warmly debated in Britain.

The Japanese offensive in Kweichow has come to a halt.

Tokyo was bombed four times yesterday. Civilian evacuation has begun.

## V.2 VICTIMS

Rescue work went on throughout the night by the light of two Army searchlights after a V-bomb had fallen recently in a working-class area in Southern England. A number of dwelling-houses were demolished.

As about twelve of a rescue party and some firemen were pulling away rubble, the side of a two-storey house fell on them. The rescuers immediately set to work to search for trapped colleagues. An eighteen-year-old N.F.S. messenger is believed to have been killed by the collapsing wall. Specially trained dogs were used to try to trace the victims, but could not pick up any scent.

The bomb made a direct hit on a public-house, empty of customers. It is thought that the landlord was killed. Fire broke out in the débris, and a car caught fire, but the N.F.S. quickly put out the flames. Three passers-by were killed by blast, and one person was brought out dead from a house. A number of people were seriously injured and taken to hospital. Windows over a wide area were shattered and people received minor injuries when ceilings, furniture and fittings to their homes were blasted. Civil Defence men, tunnelling through débris, found an old man sitting in an arm-chair, pinned by a large slab of concrete. After a long time they were able to release him.

*Friday, December 15th.*

Spearheads of the American Seventh Army crossed the Alsatian frontier into Germany to-day and established bridgeheads over the Lanter River. The Germans opened a powerful offensive in southern Alsace yesterday.

In Athens conferences and fighting continue.

On all sectors in Hungary, from the Czech border in the north to the River Drava in the south, Soviet troops are locked in a bitter struggle with the Germans and Hungarians.

British policy for a solution of the Russo-Polish problem was defined by Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons to-day. Russia's claim to an eastern frontier on the basis of the Curzon Line, and the cession by Poland of the Lvov area, was, he said, accepted by Britain as just and right. In return the Poles should receive from Germany all East Prussia south and west of Königsberg, including the great port of Danzig. Instead of an artificial corridor they would gain access to the Baltic along a front of 200 miles. There should be a general transfer of populations to accord with the new frontiers. All Germans would be expelled from the areas to be acquired by Poland. The Polish Government in London refuses to accept this solution.

In Burma, Bhamo, Shwegyin and Buthidaung have been taken from the Japanese.

To-day the Americans have landed on Mindoro, the island just south of Luzon, in the Philippines.

#### TIRANA IS FREE

Bitter hardships and ever-lurking peril were endured for nearly two years by the British Military Mission which went to Albania in April, 1943, to fan resistance against the Italians and Germans. Their work can be revealed to-day for the first time. At their head for over a year was Brigadier George Mark Oswald Davy, D.S.O., of the 3rd King's Own Hussars. R.A.C., who went to Albania from the campaigns in the Western Desert. He is now commander of Land Forces, Adriatic. The Albanian guerrillas now number 20,000.

Four hundred British paratroops dropped in Albania played a vital part in the recent liberation of the capital, Tirana, and the chief port, Durazzo.

*Sunday, December 17th.*

At dawn yesterday the Germans attacked at dozens of places along a 75-mile front from Linnich, on the Roer front of the American Ninth Army, down to the junction of the frontiers of Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. To-day it became clear that the main attack, backed by a great weight of armour,

was against the southern sector of the First Army line, on a 50-mile front south-west of Aix-la-Chapelle. In an Order of the Day, Von Rundstedt has called on his troops to give their all in one last effort. The Luftwaffe has appeared in strength to-day and 108 planes have been shot down for the loss of thirty-three Allied planes.

In a great offensive the Eighth Army has driven the Germans back from the Lamone River line and has captured the famous pottery city of Faenza. At one point New Zealand troops commanded by General Freyberg, V.C., have reached the Senio River.

A strong appeal to E.L.A.S. troops to lay down their arms was made yesterday by General Plastiras, the former Prime Minister, who recently returned to Athens after twelve years in exile.

*Tuesday, December 19th.*

A great battle is ranging in the Ardennes, on the borders of Luxembourg, and the Germans have broken through the American First Army at a dozen points, but since 4 p.m. yesterday a "security black-out" has been imposed on news from the battle-zone. Berlin announces that "the advance is going on" and that the offensive was planned by Hitler himself.

Major-General Scobie, G.O.C., Greece, took the offensive against E.L.A.S. yesterday and the Athens-Piræus road has been cleared.

*Wednesday, December 20th.*

SHAEF lifted the news black-out to-day to reveal that in the first thirty-six hours—up to Monday noon—the offensive had achieved four major penetrations of the American First Army front: south-west of Monschau; east of Malmedy, where panzers and infantry thrust 20 miles inside Belgium to Stavelot, which is 20 miles from Liege; east to St. Vith, 5 miles inside Belgium; and south of Echternach across the frontier of Luxembourg. Many German paratroops, dropped behind the Allied lines have been killed or captured. Rundstedt has mustered for the offensive thirteen to fifteen divisions, six of them armoured, of 150,000 to 225,000 men. Both sides are losing heavily in men and material. Fog is still checking Allied air operations.

E.L.A.S. have captured the R.A.F. rear H.Q. at Kafissia, 10 miles north-east of Athens, after a fight that lasted all Monday and continued until dawn yesterday. The British armoured column that went to the help of the garrison rescued some airmen who had been taken prisoner.

*Friday, December 22nd.*

Held in the north, Rundstedt has thrown the main weight of his assault into the southern arm of the German offensive. Panzer spearheads have cut right across the northern tip of Luxembourg to by-pass Bastogne, and then swung north-west to reach Laroche on the Ourthe, 14 miles farther on. Heavy fighting is going on inside Laroche. The major roads south and east of Bastogne have been cut ; Wiltz was encircled and by-passed. To the north the German drive has been temporarily stemmed in the St. Vith-Stavelot-Malmedy triangle. All three towns are still in Allied hands. The flanks of the offensive are reasonably held, but the centre is still fluid. The Germans had been slowed down, but it was believed that they were concentrating considerable armour behind the lines. The greatest armoured battle of the week-old offensive is being fought out south-west of St. Vith, where fifty-five German tanks had been knocked out in twenty-four hours by American tanks and guns. The position in this key sector is obscure. Sertorius, Berlin military commentator, stated that British reinforcements from Field-Marshal Montgomery's grouping had been thrown into Allied counter-attacks against the northern flank of Rundstedt's salient. With clearing skies the R.A.F. again flew to the aid of the Americans. The Luftwaffe made no appearance.

There is no slackening yet in the German offensive, but it seems clear now that Von Rundstedt cannot reach his first great objectives, the Meuse crossings, from which he might have retaken Antwerp and created vast difficulties for the Allies.

There are many reports of American-speaking German soldiers wearing American uniforms and using American vehicles.

The R.A.F. is bombing traffic centres which supply the German offensive.

Berlin reports new Russian offensives in Latvia and Hungary.

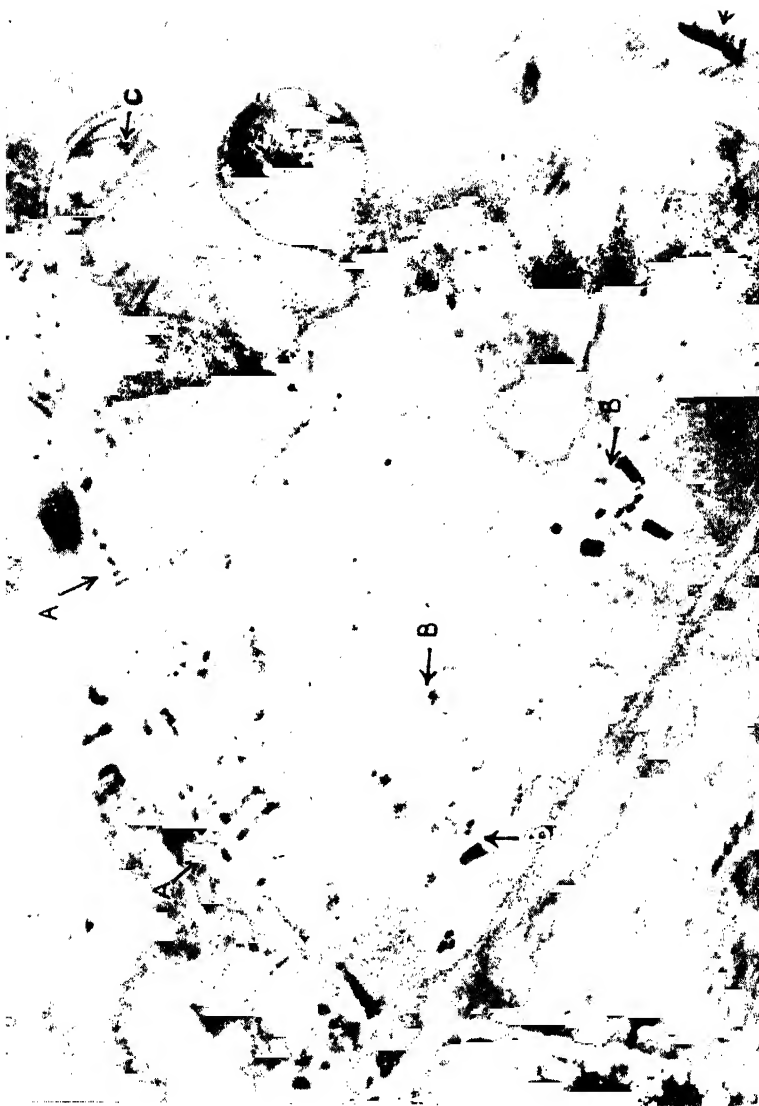


THE GUARDS CHAPEL, WELLINGTON BARRACKS

6. Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, with its roof torn open and a mass of debris inside after a flying bomb hit it.

(Photo: Planet News)





#### ROCKET-BOMB LAUNCHING SITE

V2 rocket-bomb launching site. It shows three of the rockets in vertical position (B) ready for discharge, a rocket in horizontal position (C) and cradles (A) on which they are carried. This photograph was taken by an R.A.F. reconnaissance machine on June 24th at the German experimental site at Peenemuende.

In an exclusive talk with Richard Capell, *Daily Telegraph* Special Correspondent in Athens, Mr. Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, said his Government was seeking to save the people from a "new tyranny." Expressing gratitude to Britain, he said the services of the soldiers would "bind Greek affection to her for ever."

#### VICTORIES IN BURMA

British troops driving towards Mandalay, the great communications centre of Upper Burma, have advanced 170 miles over very difficult country in eight days, in the most sweeping combined offensive of the entire Burma campaign. A dramatic stage has been reached in the long-drawn-out operations on this front. The immediate future contains exciting possibilities.

One Fourteenth Army column of British and Indian troops of the Fourth Corps, which advanced from the Chindwin River at almost incredible speed, took the town of Pinlebu, on the Mu River, in its stride. Led by men of a famous Welsh Regiment, it has quickly followed up by taking Wuntho on the Myitkina-Mandalay railway.

Other Fourth Corps troops, who linked the Chindwin and Northern Burma fronts for the first time by joining up with British 36th Division patrols near Indaw, have continued to make progress. Meanwhile, Chinese troops nearly 45 miles south-south-west of Bhamo constitute a potential threat to Lashio, the terminus of the old Burma Road. The flare-up in the Arakan coastal areas continues.

Heavy vehicles have been left toiling far in the rear. This is now a war of movement with a vengeance. For example, field workshops have been broken up into light aid detachments, with special equipment fitted into jeeps and trailers. They are doing prodigious work.

Japanese skeletons littering the roads deep into Burma are the grim evidence of the spectacular success of the Third Tactical Air Force writes Squadron-Leader E. Michael Salzer in the *Daily Telegraph*. In spite of the worst monsoon weather for years, the combined British and American Eastern Air Command have for months strangled Japanese traffic by road, rail, river and sea and starved the forward troops to death.

"The Japs had no choice. They just sat down and died.

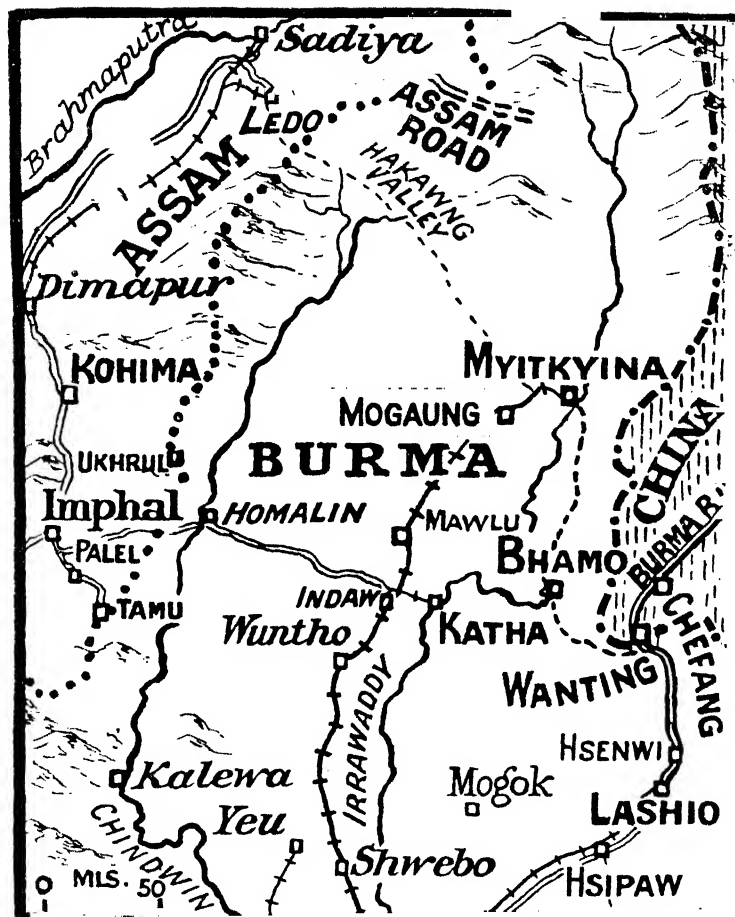
Their food and medical stores exhausted, supplies cut off, air-dropped supply frustrated by the vigilant fighters, thousands died of starvation whilst our own troops had everything in plenty—thanks to the R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F.” That is how a senior Army Officer described it. How the battle of the rains was won is told by pilots whose flying adventures over Imphal and Arakan, the Chindwin and the Irrawaddy, are more hazardous than on any other battle front.

Nature plays an uncanny game with aircraft in these regions. Changes occur with treacherous suddenness, and pilots may suddenly find themselves in one of the dreaded “Cu-Nimbs”—the cumulus nimbus—the turbulent cloud formation which spells danger to any but the most experienced flier. One Spitfire pilot hit one of these black pillars of cloud and before he knew what had happened, found himself floating through the air with bits of his aircraft flying around him, “like dancing matchsticks,” as he described them. A Vultee Vengeance madly tossed about in one of these clouds turned turtle. The air gunner, suddenly suspended in mid-air on his safety belt, thought it was time to bale out. He arrived back at camp three days later after a long jungle trek, to find his pilot still wondering how he lost him.

Vultures, hawks, crows and thousands of waterbirds in flight can be dangerous. One Beaufighter returned with a large buzzard, which had jammed the aileron, wedged into the leading edge of the port wing. A Hurricane hitting a hawk got into a spin and crashed. One station had to scare vultures from the runway by firing Very lights at them. Nature, too, adds to the adventures of flying over the Burma fronts by the onslaught of its “midget” air force—the flies and mosquitoes.

The enemy's ground defences include tripwires across rivers and valleys, machine-gun nests in trees, and the “suicide defence” of blanketing a target with heavy ack-ack exploding as low as 50 feet to 100 feet above the ground—a barrage as dangerous for the gunners as for the attackers. But neither these nor his fighters are so much feared or cause as many casualties among our low-flying aircraft as the rigours of monsoon and jungle conditions.

I must mention the valiant work of the Air Force's ground crews. Incessant rains or scorching heat have made repair and servicing a severe test of human endurance. In tropical conditions corrosion sets in within minutes. Sometimes the



THE BURMA FRONT

Daily Telegraph

sun is so fierce that no work can be done on the aircraft in normal working hours. An egg cracked on the wing would "set" almost immediately.

Landmarks are difficult to find when green valleys turn into brown rivers overnight or yellow patches into green fields. Clouds, water-spouts and ground mist make it even harder to find a target well camouflaged, as it always is in dense jungle or overgrown waterways. Yet thousands of trucks, river boats, railway trucks and enemy hutments have been destroyed from the air just the same. Sometimes the pilots attacked "invisible" targets given to them by Army observers. Six Hurricanes returned from a sortie over the jungle, where they bombed a certain area, with the unanimous verdict, "Waste of time. Nothing at all to be seen." The Army signalled shortly afterwards: "Air attack most successful. Several hundred Japanese casualties." Burmese villagers, their raw shoulders as evidence, reported that they had had to evacuate enemy casualties for twenty-four hours after the sortie.

On the Tiddim Road there are hundreds of wrecked enemy vehicles and many tanks which have been destroyed by bombs or cannon shells. A staff car which had been strafed by Spitfires was found under a tree south of Tamu. Inside were the remains of a Japanese general and his A.D.C.

These incidents form part of a picture which portrays a supreme effort by flying men and ground crews in braving the monsoons. Here was an air victory achieved under conditions in which flying has never been attempted before, conditions in which, on a more "normal" battlefield, flying would have been cancelled most of the time.

### *Saturday, December 23rd.*

Both literally and metaphorically an atmosphere of fog continues to envelop the battle of the Ardennes. German armoured columns have broken through towards the Meuse. They have been held at various points and all attempts to widen the front of the breach to north and south have so far failed. At other points, however, they have penetrated to a distance of 40 miles from their original front.

### *Christmas Day.*

The King broadcast this afternoon a message of cheer and encouragement to his people, "millions of you, scattered far and near across the world."

Mr. Churchill and the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Eden, arrived in Athens to-day. A plot to blow up the Grande Bretagne Hotel, Athens, H.Q. of the Allied Command and the Greek Government, was discovered this morning when three-quarters of a ton of German dynamite was found in a sewer eight feet under the front door.

*Tuesday, December 26th.*

Official news of the Ardennes battle to-night showed that the Germans had made a considerable advance towards the River Meuse. American troops are still holding out at Bastogne, where they are being supplied by air, while relieving columns battle steadily forward from the south. Air activity to-day was again intense with the fine weather continuing, and harassing attacks were kept up on a large scale.

Representatives of the Greek Government and E.L.A.S., the National Liberation Front, met in conference in Athens to-day in an effort to end the conflict in Greece. The meeting was held in an undisclosed place in Athens. Armoured cars guarded all street corners in the neighbourhood. The conference room was described as dimly lighted by hurricane lamps. Russian and American observers were present. Archbishop Damaskinos, who took the chair at the Conference said : " It is with very deep emotion and unspeakable joy that we welcome the presence here among us of the historic champion and leader of the world's struggle for the liberties of the people, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Mr. Winston Churchill." After expressing gratitude for Britain's long traditional interest in the Greek people, he added : " It is this very interest which, on the greatest day in the Christian calendar, took the Prime Minister from his tremendous duties in carrying on the struggle against the common enemy, and brought him here to help us with problems in Greece which should never have arisen." Mr. Churchill made a brief speech, pleading for Greek national unity, and the British delegates then left.

*Wednesday, December 27th.*

The Germans are withdrawing to the Siegfried Line in the south. Bastogne has been relieved, and Allied tanks are counter-attacking strongly on both sides of the bulge. For

the fifth day in succession the Allied air forces kept up the massive onslaught against Von Rundstedt's troops and their supply lines.

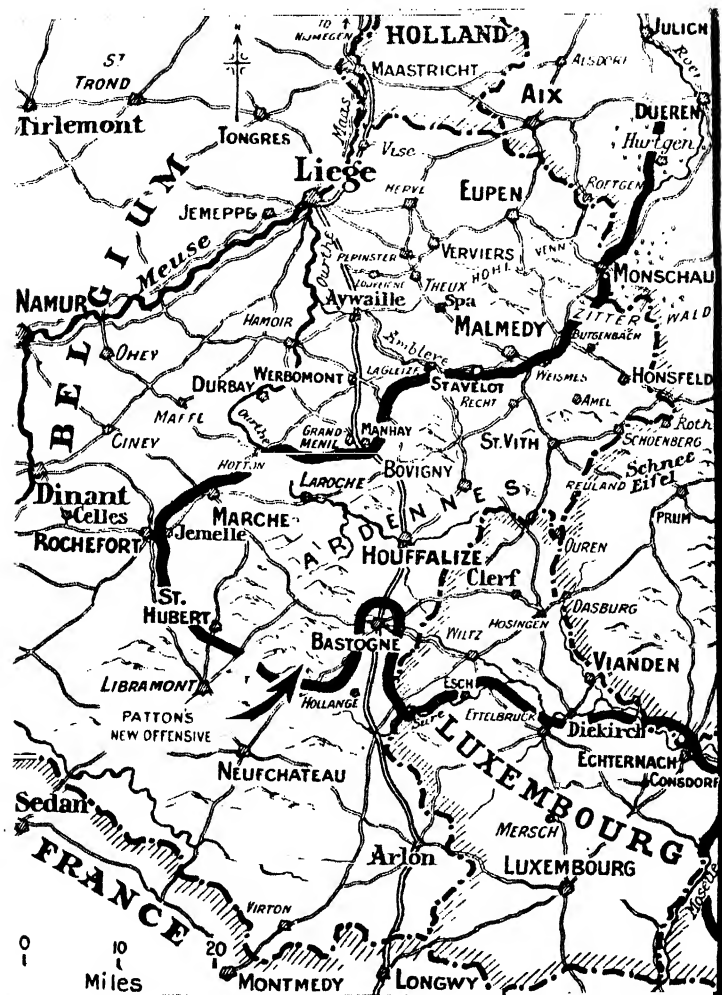
V-bombs were launched recently, for the first time, against the North of England. A number of people, including children, were killed. Damage and casualties were caused in several towns, in a colliery district and in country areas. Among the children killed when a row of houses was hit were two babies. Another was injured. If bombs from carrier planes were used their range would be not less than 300 miles ; if the V-bombs came from Germany or Jutland their range would be some 400-500 miles. The German communiqué on Sunday said : " Manchester as well as London and Antwerp was shelled by our long-range weapons."

Discussion, and fighting, continue in Athens.

*Thursday, December 28th.*

Berlin announced to-night that German spearheads on the south and west of the break-through area had been withdrawn according to plan, and that the British 51st Highland Division was attacking east of Dinant. For the first time since Rundstedt began his drive into the Ardennes thirteen days ago the news is of Allied successes and German reverses. The American Third Army is attacking the south of the bulge. Latest reports show a widening of the Bastogne corridor, with German troops driven back across the frontier near Echternach. The panzers which came within 4 miles of the Meuse some days ago have been smashed. Near Celles a big enemy force of tanks and infantry was surrounded and wiped out. German tank and transport losses are mounting rapidly. Pilots report big fires in the western tip of the bulge, suggesting that the enemy is burning equipment before retreating to more secure positions. Allied air activity was reduced to-day by fog, snow and 20 degrees of frost on the battlefield. Some Germans were reported to be trying to dig in and to be laying minefields.

The greatest Allied air supply effort ever made in the European theatre flew men, food, guns, ammunition and other essential supplies to the encircled American division in Bastogne during the seven-day siege, it was disclosed to-night. The defence of this town is one of the most heroic episodes of the war.



Daily Telegraph

THE ARDENNES BATTLE



*Saturday, December 30th.*

Advancing 4 miles north from Bastogne, after overcoming stiff resistance, tanks and infantry of General Patton's American Third Army have narrowed to 13 miles the gap separating them from the First Army troops to the north, and have now launched a large-scale offensive. From all along the line the news is of steady Allied progress, despite feverish enemy efforts to dig in. At Shaef the view was expressed that the crisis of the battle was over, though much hard fighting remained to be done and Rundstedt might be preparing further blows. With the Ardennes still largely fog-bound, the R.A.F.'s Second Tactical Air Force, flying more than 700 sorties, switched their attack to railway targets in the Rheine-Munster area, north of the main battle zone.

Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden arrived back in this country from Greece yesterday. Major-General Scobie, G.O.C. British Land Forces in Greece, has replied to the memorandum addressed to Mr. Churchill on Friday by E.A.M., the political organisation of the National Liberation Movement, reminding them of the two essential conditions for an armistice. Attica, the province in which Athens stands, must be evacuated, and they must lay down their arms. Archbishop Damaskinos, Metropolitan of Athens, who was appointed Regent of Greece to-day by the King of the Hellenes, has begun his task of forming a new Government. Meanwhile British troops are still fighting in Athens.

The Russians have broken into the city area of Budapest. The battle has become still more grim and bloody since the Germans murdered two Russian emissaries who went into the city under a white flag.

*Sunday, December 31st.*

Fog has again to-day grounded Allied aircraft in the Ardennes battle zone, but the Allied counter-offensive and the German withdrawal continue. Since Von Rundstedt launched this offensive he has lost 40,000 to 60,000 men, including 20,000 prisoners.

Hitler to-night broke the silence he has maintained since July by a speech broadcast just after midnight, in which he declared that Germany will never capitulate, and appealed to the Germans to have confidence in their leaders. "My





CONFERENCE  
IN  
ATHENS

Hurricane Jumps. At the conference table in Athens on Boxing Day. Seated facing the camera from left to right are: Mr. Eden, Mr. Churchill, the Archbishop of Athens, Field Marshal Alexander, Mr. Macmillan and Gen. Scobie. Other delegates are delegates from all the Greek parties.

(Greek Copyright Reserved)

belief in the future of our people is unshakeable," he said : but he did not promise them victory.

Shortly before Hitler's speech Berlin was bombed by a strong force of Mosquitoes carrying 4,000-lb. bombs. Osterfeld and Duisburg were raided by Lancasters.

Bomber Command has dropped 525,000 tons of bombs on enemy targets during 1944 twice the total load dropped during the previous four-and-a-quarter years.

The year ends with both Germany and Japan still resisting fiercely, and with dangerous political problems still unsolved in Poland and Greece, but on all the battle-fronts of the world the enemy is being forced back and the defeat of Germany in 1945 seems assured.

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